6The English People believes itself to be free: it is gravely mistaken; it is free only during the election of MPs; as soon as the Members are elected the people is enslaved. 9 JJ ROUSSEAU

So today is freedom day

Speci Anthony Bevins
Less Political Editor

The country's political leaders last night handed the election over to the people, with appeals for their support in a ballot that will either return Tony Blair, at 43, as the youngest Prime Minister for a century, or give John

Major the first fifth term since 1828. Mr Major repeated his warning that change was dangerous, saving: "I understand why some people may find the argument for change attractive. Eighteen years is a long time, the electorate know us, warts and all. And it's

easy to overlook the achievements. "But if you're one of the many who have still to make up your minds, with all the force I possess, I say don't fall for it. Don't be taken in. One cross in the wrong place on the ballot pa-

British democracy can certainly improve, but it's alive and kicking.

Give it a go' Leading article, page 21

per tomorrow could wreck everything we have achieved together.

At his morning press conference, the Conservative leader said nine times: "It's too good to give up", adding: "In one careless moment, don't throw our success away."

But with the opinion polls repeating their forecast of a landslide Labour victory. Mr Blair was maintaining his insistence that nothing could be taken for granted. He said he wanted to rebuild the voters' trust by offering a 10-point contract, including central pledges on tax, education, health, crime, sleaze, and Europe.

He told *The Independent*: "The very British people is precisely so that we can try and rebuild the trust.

One of the most frustrating things for us, since we've been in opposition for 18 years is that people say that all the politicians are all the same. Whatever we vote, it doesn't make any

"It's not the case that we can't make any difference. The promises that we have made are specific, they are limited, I often point out they are limited, but they are specific, and if we deliver on those then I think we are entitled to trust,

However, Mr Blair then added: "If we don't deliver on those, then we

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, released a letter to two million floating voters in which he trumped his earlier claim that his party was on the verge of a major break-

It said the Liberal Democrats stood on the threshold of an historic victory ... The only vote that will make a difference for you and your family's future is a vote for the Liberal De-

The messages were reiterated during the day as the leaders barnstormed around the country, with Mr Major at one point being barracked by Labour supporters during a walk-

about in Stevenage, a Labour target. Mr Blair said in an impromptu speech at Stockton market, another Labour target: "You either wake up on Friday 2 May with another five years of the most discredited and sleazy government. If you don't want that, come out and support us tomorrow and end up with a new Labour government and a better future for

But Mr Blair's biggest problem was holding down all triumphalist talk of victory, and the action that would flow from his election tomorrow.

Against that background, senior Labour sources dismissed speculation about Mr Blair's plans for Cabinetmaking, something he would turn to tomorrow, in the event of victory.

However, suggestions of a largescale purge of traditionalist, old Labour frontbenchers were being heavily discounted by well-informed sources yesterday. The Independent was told that there would be no

While there are 27 members of the shadow cabinet and only 22 paid Cabinet places available, it would not be possible for Mr Blair to give all his shadow cabinet team full Cabinet rank, but one source said that while some would inevitably be disappointed, Mr Blair would want to have Party. He would want to continue



Art of persuasion: A 1930s painting by Francis Wilson to be auctioned later this month

a good mix of people in his administration.

some speculation, Mr Blair was well pleased with his frontbench team, which took account of the halance of the Parliamentary Labour

with that balance in government. But the top jobs have already been The source said that contrary to marked out for John Prescott, the deputy who has delivered such stalwart efforts in a countrywide campaign; Gordon Brown, shadow Chancellor and head of the Millbank headquarters campaign team; Robin

Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary; David Blunkett, shadow Education Secretary; Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, and Margaret Beckett, who is currently serving as shadow Trade and Industry Secretary.

In the event of a Labour victory, speculation will also be prompted by his brother, Charles, in Margaret of next year.

THE INDEPENDENT

Labour keeps 17-point lead

suggests that the widely-expecting closing of the gap in the last days of the campaign has failed to materialise, writes John Rentoul.

Labour retains a commanding 17point lead, the sort of advantage in the polls not seen since Margaret Thatcher went to the country in 1983 after the Falklands war and won a

144-seat majority.
If translated into seats, our poll would give Tony Blair more than 400 MPs and a majority of between 173 and 179 in the Commons, although Tom Simpson, managing director of Harris Research, predicts a majority of about 99 if there are as many "shy Tories" and "late swingers" as five years ago.

The final polls from the other companies also suggest that Labour's lead is holding firm, with NOP for Reuter yesterday putting Labour 22 points ahead on 50 per cent. A surprising feature of the NOP poll is that it puts Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party on 4 per cent, whereas today's Independent poll puts them on only per cent.

Harris Research interviewed 154 adults face-to-face in their homes on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday this week. The figures exclude 14 per cent who didn't know, wouldn't say or wouldn't vote, who could not be allocated to a party on the basis of how they voted in 1992.

Independent poli in full, page 12

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ICE SIX

INSIDE

Vote for the cocktail party, page 22 Requiem for Major, page 23 Election pages 11-15

about the new prime minister's at-

It is expected that Mr Blair would

want to appoint Jonathan Powell, a

former diplomat and his current chief

of staff, as his principal private sec-

retary - a post which was once held

titude towards the Civil Service.

* THE INDEPENDENT

tain to be strong speculation about

Secretary to the Cabinet and Head

of the Home Civil Service, the most

senior mandarin in the country,

who is due to retire at the start

Asylum cases clear-up

Immigration officials have exploited the political vacuum created by the election - and the absence of MPs - rapidly to resolve more than 12,000 sensitive asylum cases. Many of these will result in "enforcement actions" - the Home Office's term for the repatriation of someone

back to their country of origin.
According to a senior Home
Office official, the project has so far been "remarkably successful", with as many as 600 cases being decided in the last three weeks. The Immigration and Nationality Directorate - a department of the Home Office has created a taskforce to deal with these controversial cases.

The 25-strong group, part of the Asylum Arrears implementation Project, started work on 7 April - a fortnight after Parliament was prorogued, and

the day before its dissolution. The scheme was devised in January, but a senior Home Office official told The Independent: "It was very convenient that it was set up at a time when no MPs were available to defend constituents."

The director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Claude Moraes, has written to Home Office Minister, Timothy Kirkwood, asking him to "come clean" on why the taskforce was set up. He also asked whether it was coincidence that the new system had come into operation just before the dissolution of Parliament. Once an initial decision on an

it is much more difficult to overturn, and applicants lose their right to social security benefits. It is impossible to tell how successful the scheme has been be-

deportations, or "enforcement actions" as it prefers them to be known, hump together asylum and immigration cases. However, a senior Home Office figure said that more than 200 cases are being dealt with each week. According to a written Com-

mons answer from Mr Kirkwood to Mike Gapes, then MP for liford South, the Home Office acknowledged that the project "has the aim of producing a higher rate of decisions within the staff resources already allocated to this block of work". A Home Office spokeswoman said ministers were keen to clear the backlog of asy-lum cases, which had risen to

69,000 18 months ago but was now around 10,000 lower. asylum-seeker has been taken, "People can only be removed once their case has been completed and they have exercised their rights to appeal. That cause Home Office figures on takes months," she said.

Academic failure Mike Leigh, awarded one of the film industry's highest hon-ours by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, re-

signed from the academy because of its failure to acknowledge his films for more than 20 years, he told The Independent. Page 3

Hong Kong pledge
The Chief Executive designate of the new Hong Kong government vowed that a Tiananmen Squaretype massacre could never hap-pen in the territory. Page 16

The Mafia is back Andrew Gumbel Palermo

A new generation of maliosi is tightening its grip once more around Italy.

After a euphoric period of high-profile arrests, mass trials and a veritable flurry of informers who have shed light on the darkest corners of post-war Italian history, the struggle to de-

feat Cosa Nostra is crumbling. That is the conclusion of magistrates working in Sicily, and confirmed by an investigation by The Independent.

"People have a great desire to convince themselves that the war against the Mafia has been said Antonio Ingroia. one of the brightest young pros-ecutors in Palermo. "But our impression today is less optimistic ... There is a sense of isolation and abandonment by the state. People are once again random violence. In the backbosses, both big and small."

The new Mafia may be less violent than the variety that held way in the late 1980s and early 1990s - there have been no magistrates or politicians shot dead in the streets - but organised crime groups have nevertheless taken advantage of political instability, recession and a weakening magistrature to spread their businesses abroad

and extend their climate of fear. They have capitalised on their considerable financial strength to spread into northern Italy, Europe and establish links in the east, notably in Albania, Turkey and Russia. In addition to drugs, they now trade in arms, nuclear materials and toxic

In Italy towns and villages are beset by extortion rackets and waters of southern Sicily; gangsters are shooting each other in public squares and torturing shopowners who refuse to pay protection. With unemployment rising, recruitment is easy and the state is either too weak

or too scared to stop the rot. The fight against the Mafia was invigorated after the murder of Giovanni Falcone, the groundbreaking Sicilian magistrate, five years ago this month. His killers were rapidly tried and their their evidence in turn led to further arrests. That momentum, however, has now gone.

The main reason is a desire by the political class to put an end to the many judicial scandals that felled the old Christian Democrat-led order. The priority in Rome is no longer to strengthen the judiciary, but rather to crack down on the

magistrates to prevent further assaults on the status quo.

Most striking is a campaign to discredit Mafia informers, known as pentiti, whose testi-mony has been the foundation of judicial investigations and trials in the past 15 years. Having blown the lid on the secretive workings of Cosa Nostra, the pentiti have begun talking in de-tail about Mafia links with politicians, terrorist groups and shady masonic lodges.

A new draft law on Mafia informers tightens the rules on their collaboration and magistrates fear they will cease to come forward, or retract sworn testimony. Moreover, a law on specially tough prison regimes for Mafia bosses is being relaxed, and two high-security prisons particularly feared by Cosa Nostra are being closed

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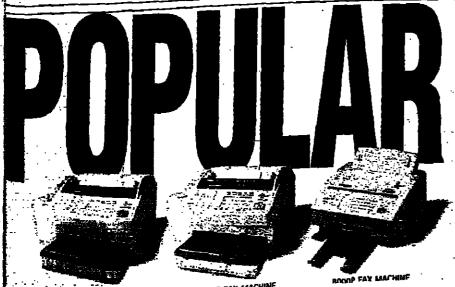
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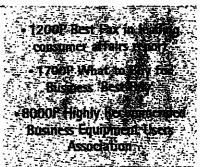




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Call for total ban on use of mobile phones while driving

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has called on the next government to ban the use of mobile phones while driving, even when used completely "hands-free". Motoring organisations have reacted by describing such a ban as "unrealistic" and "unworkable".

The move by the RoSPA follows a meeting of their national road safety committee yesterday morning and two recent court cases involving the use of mobile phones by motorists.

"We are saying that calls should not be made or received on the move." said John Howard, RoSPA's director of safety, "and we plan to take this forward with the police and the government".

The committee members, who are drawn from the Department of Transport, road safety groups, the motoring industry and the Association of Chief Police Officers, will also encourage the police to take stronger action against drivers who use phones. ACPO have said they are "broadly supportive" of the policy, but the RAC said last night it was unrealistic to call for a blanket ban on all mobile

The police cannot currently charge someone for using a mobile phone behind the wheel, instead they must prove a motorist is driving carelessly or dangerously or that they were not in a position to control the vehicle.

PC who stole from pensioner jailed

A debt-ridden police officer, who betrayed the trust of an 80-year-

old disabled pensioner he befriended while on duty and stole her £7,800 life savings, was jailed for 18 months yesterday.

PC Trevor Standing, 36, who wept as the judge branded him a "mean, opportunist thief", stumbled on Kathleen Lyons' hoard of cash while trying to repair her television.

PC Standing, a father of three, described as "exemplary" after an 18-year career spanning both the Army and police force, hid most of the cash in the loft at his home, but used £500 to pay off bills. He also used the cash to buy a second-hand television for Mrs Lyons and pretended it was a gift from him.

Passing sentence Southwark Crown Court in south London. Judge Geoffrey Rivlin QC, told PC Standing, of Sundale Avenue, South Croydon, that he had committed a "grave breach of trust".

Gyngell attacks TV takeover tycoons



Bruce Gyngell, the outspoken managing director of Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television launched a cathing attack on the takeover tycoons" who are threatening the quality of British television.

Mr Gyngell, who was addressing the Cambridge Union last night, said: "In recent years we have attracted a new breed, businessmen who are only interested in television for the money they can make." Instead of television being a

cultural asset, there is a danger that it will be crushed by the beancounters. Corporate accountants, takeover tycoons and here-todaygone-tomorrow managers who care nothing about quality." Mr Gyngell, former head of TV-am, is fighting a rearguard action to prevent the takeover of YTTV by Granada. Paul McCann

Skier faces prosecution over death

Discipline on the slopes has long been a serious affair in North America's ski resorts. Nathan Hall, 18, a ski racer, is facing criminal prosecution in Colorado following a fatal collision with a British beginner in Vail on 20 April. The state is pondering charges either of manslaughter or negligent homicide.

Mr Hall struck Alan Cobb, 33, a cabinet-maker from Ipswich.

who was skiing only for the fourth time. He died from a fractured skull. If Mr Hall is charged with manslaughter and convicted, he could face 16 years in jail. A speeding skier "is a weapon too", said District Attorney, Pete Michaelson,

Bordeaux heist leaves sour taste

A £500 reward was offered today for information into the theft of £30,000 worth of rare wines from a warehouse.

Fifty cases of mainly red and white Bordeaux wines were taken out through a hole in the roof at Reid Wines in Marsh Lane. Hallatrow, north Somerset. Simon Wood, a partner in the company, said the wines were too young to be drunk. "What's most upsetting is that whoever took these wines probably won't like them and they'll just throw them away," he said. "Most of them need at least another 10 years to mature before drinking."

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but after accompanying her mother on a recent tour the White House. Mary Dejevsky, Washington 'Independent' writer takes top prize in foodie Oscars

before she departs.

Simon Hopkinson (right), who writes on food for The Independent Magazine, has been awarded the title of Food Writer of the Year in the prestigious Glenfiddich

He was presented with his award before more than 500 guests at The Dorchester hotel in London on Tuesday night. Although Hopkinson is a chef who has come comparatively recently to food writing, he has already won a Glenfiddich book of the year award for Roast Chicken and Other Stories, along with his co-

author, Lindsey Bareham, in 1995. This year's book of the year was presented to Gordon Ramsay, a Michelin-starred chef, for his debut book. Passion for Flavour. BBC Education was awarded the Glenfiddich Trophy, for its Techno: Food, a series of programmes catering for the food technology module in the National Curriculum. The awards, the industry's premier accolades, recognise excellence in writing, publishing and broad-

casting on food and drink matters. Hopkinson - the founder and co-owner of the popular Bibendum restaurant in London, loved by foodies and celebrities alike grew up in Bury, Lancashire, and was encouraged to enter the restaurant industry by his parents, both keen chefs. His first venture



people

Chelsea Clinton: Exam results placed her in the academic elite (Photograph: Reuters)

She's leaving home: Chelsea

chooses Californian college

ivulging what had become a veritable state se-

cret, the White House announced yesterday that

Chelsea Clinton, the 17-year-old only child of Bill and Hillary, will attend Stanford University in Cal-

ifornia to study medicine. Stanford is one of the US's

premier - and most expensive - universities, with a particularly strong reputation for medical research.

its location, in an idyllic setting at Palo Alto south

of San Francisco, makes it also one of the furthest from

Washington. Chelsea has apparently promised to in-

troduce her parents to the virtues of computer e-mail

sip in recent weeks, with the First Daughter's every trip out of the capital scrutinised for signs of her ed-

ucational intentions. Yale - her parents' alma mater - was seen as the "romantic" option; Harvard and the select Wellesley College were also shortlisted, with Princeton, 40 minutes outside New York; the strong

favourite after she made a repeat visit there. Both parents had insisted that the choice of college,

and course, was entirely Chelsea's. She had report-

Chelsea's choice had become a hot topic of gos-

was a small restaurant in Fishguard, Wales, which he eventually left to move on to London to work in such fashionable establish-

ments as Hilaire.

Renowned for his inventive style, Hopkinson is often described as one of the founding fathers of modern British cooking. He has been with The Independent Magazine for two years and is currently writing The Prawn Cocktail Years, a book which should reinvent and rehabilitate food clichés such as Black Forest gateau and cog au vin.

Each winner received a commemorative engraved quaich (a Scottish drinking cup), a cheque for £800 and a case of single malt scotch whisky. Readers wishing to sample some of Simon's fare should note; although he will not be writing in this Saturday's Independent, his column will return the following weekend. Simon Reeve

Doncaster council chief suspended

of Africa, which included visits to many aid projects,

ago, Chelsea attended the eithe Sidwell Friends' school, a Quaker foundation, in north-west Washing-

ton. Even without her highly placed parents, her high score in the university qualifying aptitude test, which

placed her in the top 15,000 school-leavers in the US,

would have given her the pick of the best colleges.

Academic excellence apart, Stanford is known for

its astronomical fees (more than \$20,000 a year for

tuition, with another \$7,000 for lodging). No wonder

Clinton senior recently loked that he was thinking of approaching his former rival for the presidency, the

Joking, Indeed, seems to be the President's way of

dealing with Chelsea's departure - which both parents

have conceded will be a wrenching experience. "The bad news," Mr Clinton told a recent dinner, "is that our

only child is leaving home; the good news is that it frees

up another bedroom." Washington was scandalised ear-

lier in the year by reports that big Democratic Party

millionaire Republican Bob Dole, for a loan.

After arriving in Washington from Arkansas five years

she seems to have settled on medicine.

Doug Hale, the chief executive of Doncaster Council, has been suspended on full pay while an investigation into allegations of fraud by the District Auditor and police, continues.

The Labour-controlled council first came to prominence in January when the district auditor, Gordon Sutton, revealed that he was concerned about foreign trips and expensive "working lunches" taken by councillors and some officers.

The council's leader and deputy leader, Peter Welsh and Ray Stockhill, resigned in March, but this is the first time that any of the authority's officers have been affected by the inquiries.

Mr Hale has been chief executive of Doncaster for six years and was formerly married to Rita Hale, one of Britain's foremost experts on local government finance. While the police investigation

was initially focused on councillors' overspending, it has recently widened to look at land deals, the granting of planning permission to developers and the allocation of contracts by the council.

The council last night confirmed Mr Hale's suspension and said: "The scale of the inquiry has yet to be finalised, but we will look at all possible areas of the management of the council."

Alf Taylor, the director of education, has been appointed as acting chief executive.

Christian Wolmar

briefing

ASTRONOMY

Search for life focuses on sun's twin in distant galaxy

A twin to the sun has been discovered that offers the best chance yet of finding extraterrestrial intelligence, astronomers reported vesterday. The star in the constellation of Scorpius, 46 light years from the Earth, is more like the sun than any other investigated

Although the sun is often dismissed as an average star, it is actually quite unusual. It is one of only 4 per cent of stars in our galaxy known as G-type main sequence stars. These are vellow stars that burn hydrogen into helium at their centres, and are considered the most obvious target for the search for extraterrestrial life.

Brazilian astronomers Gustavo Porto de Mello, of the Federal University, Rio de Janeiro, and Licio da Silva of the National Observatory, found that the star 18 Scorpii is a virtual carbon copy

Using telescopes in Chile and Brazil, they found that the star's mass, temperature, colour, surface gravity and iron abundance closely match the sun's. The star emits 5 per cent more light than the sun and is slightly older.

The astronomers, whose findings will be published in next month's issue of Astrophysical Journal Letters, told New Scientist magazine: "We recommend that it be considered for strong priority in the ongoing planet searching programmes as well as in SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) surveys."

NATURE

Whaling may have saved the seals

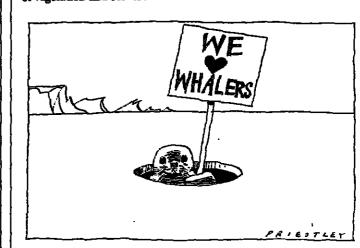
A fur seal population explosion in the Antarctic may have been aided by the whaling industry, British scientists said yesterday. Examination of seal hair found in lake sediments revealed that the colony was almost twice as big as it had been at any time in the

past 6,600 years.
Researchers from the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge said that between 1976 and 1994 the number of seals visiting the island each summer from breeding grounds in South Georgia had leaped from fewer than 100 to 20,500.

Writing in the science journal Nature, the researchers suggest that the Southern Ocean whaling industry, which has reduced the baleen whale population by 90 per cent since 1922, may be partly responsible. The whales feed on vast amounts of a shrimp known as krili,

which are also food for seals. An abundance of krill caused by the diminished number of whales is thought to have helped promote seal population growth.

The seals, hunted to near extinction in the 19th and early present century, are now said to be causing extensive destruction of vegetation and soil erosion.



SOCIETY

Nail-filers need not apply

Secretaries are doing it for themselves. Nearly half now wield a degree of financial muscle within their companies. Fourty-six per cent of secretaries, many of whom are now called anything from 'Office Manager' to 'Business Adminstrator', can authorise expenditure on their own, without having to ask for additional clearance elsewhere in the company, according to a survey of 248 secretaries by recruitment specialists Reed Employment

Nearly 30 per cent of those surveyed could sanction spending up to £1,000 on their own authority, with 18 per cent having higher limits or an unlimited amount which they can sign off on any one project without have to clear their decisions by a manager.

Out of the total sample, 12 per cent can sign off between £1,000 and £10,000 on any one project, with 2 per cent able to sign off between £10,000 and £50,000, and 4 per cent either having no set limit or an unlimited budget in their own control.

Many secretaries are said to be fed-up with colleagues and

employers who under-value the term 'secretary'. When asked what they would like to be called, they made suggestions such as Manager to the Managing Director, El Supremo, or even Chief

WEATHER

Few showers as drought goes on

April showers have been almost non-existent this year - with some places having less than a quarter of their usual rainfall. It looked like being a practically rain-free month until the last week, when a few drops fell.

Temperatures, on the other hand, were a little above the average

 although warm days were frequently followed by frosty nights.
 The thermometer almost touched 22C (72F) at Bristol and Gatwick Airport on 9 and 10 April respectively, but fell to below 2C (28F) in Bournemouth on the night spanning those two dates.

The best of the sunshine was found in the South and East – but

Northern Ireland and much of Scotland had a dull month. The last week of the month produced a long-awaited change, as weather fronts moved into the North and West of the country.



THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Spain delighted by royal wedding plans

To the delight of a nation of Helio! readers (or Hola! as it is known here), Spain is to celebrate a royal wedding in October. Princess Cristina, 31, youngest daughter of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia and third in line to the Spanish throne, yesterday became engaged to a Basque handball star, Inaki Urdangarin, 29.

The announcement by the Zarzuela palace concludes weeks of feverish speculation that has filled gossip columns, since their relationship became public in March. Princess Cristina, a keen sportswoman, met her fi-

ance at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last August, when Urdangarin won a bronze medal as a member of the Spanish handball team. The son of a prosperous Basque father and an

aristocratic Belgian mother, Urdangarin lives in Barcelona and is a member of the reigning national champion handball team attached to mighty Futbol Club Barcelona. Princess Cristina moved to Barcelona in 1992 for six months, and stayed. She learned Catalan and worked as an exhibitions organiser for the cultural foundation of La Caixa savings bank. She has a political science degree from a Madrid university and a Masters from New York.

Cristina shares the easy, open manner of her elder sister, the Infanta Elena, whose marriage two years ago in Seville to the gangling sprig of one of Spain's most blue-blooded families captivated the country in a nationwide fiesta.

Urdangarin, tall, blue-eyed and handsome, is no mere upper-class beefcake. He plans to finish a business studies degree and retire from professional handball within three years.

Cristina's marriage will take place in Barcelona. and leaves only Prince Felipe, 29, helr to the throne, unmarried. Madrid is earmarked for his eventual wedding, but, despite being linked to a number of young women, his choice of bride remains unknown Elizabeth Nash, Madrid



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Mike Leigh's secret is revealed



• This is the first time that anyone has had a Bafta award for anything of mine. I've only had two nominations before ... for that reason I've let my membership lapse ?

Arts News Editor

Mike Leigh, the film director given one of the industry's highest honours this week by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, revealed yesterday that he had resigned from the academy because of its failure to acknowledge his films for over 20

In an exclusive interview with The Independent, the enigmatic and hugely talented creator of quintessential-British films also expressed for the first time his disappointment that his film Secrets and Lies, which won the Bafta best original screen-play and the Alexander Korda award for outstanding film of the year, had lost out so heavily at the Oscars to The

English Patient.
But Leigh's real wrath was reserved for Bafta, the 50-year-old body, which comprises all the great and the good in the British film and television industries, and awards the British of cinemas his films often gain dis- only be described as his contempt for

equivalent of the Oscars each year. Mike Leigh is unique in British film making. Working with equal success in movies, theatre and television, he has evolved a naturalistic and obsessively demanding relationship with specially selected troupes of actors

often depressing but equally often hitemporary Britain. They range from the comic middleclass pretensions of suburbia in Abigail's Party, starring his estranged wife Alison Steadman, to his current triumph Secrets and Lies, the Oscarnominated and Bafta-winning deeply affecting tale of a black girl's search

for her natural mother who turns out Despite his ever-growing fan base Britain and abroad, the introverted Leigh has always considered himself an outsider in the industry, rightly resentful of the small number

tribution to, and of the lack of esthe organisation. And he gave the first rector and best actor at Cannes [Leigh's film Naked won the Palme expression of his disappointment

Unfulfilled: Leigh receiving his Bafta awards for Secrets and Lies (left) at the Royal Albert Hall on Monday

tablishment recognition of his work, A clue that, despite the acclaim for Secrets and Lies, he might still feel this exclusion came at last Monday night's Baftas. The most memorable image of

the occasion was beaming superstar

evolving their characters and through Diana Ross underneath a plumage of them the scripts, and presenting an purple hair presenting the top award to a solemn, unsmiling Leigh. ta award for best British film yesterday it became clear why even in his

greatest moment of triumph he was feeling just a little curmudgeonly and wore a hangdog expression.

With thirdy disguised contempt for the British academy, he complained

that until he became a hot Hollywood property this year, Bafta had never nominated a single one of his fulllength films or television works. Leigh revealed that he had resigned from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, which gave him three

awards this week, because of what can

that Secrets and Lies had been so eclipsed by The English Patient at the Although Leigh would not criticise The English Patient himself, he did say

that "many people in Hollywood" were surprised by the large number of prizes it had been giveng and the by contrast, awarded Secrets and Lies prizes for best british film, best original screenplay and best actress for Brenda Blethyn who played the white

But Leigh said yesterday: "This was the first time anybody has ever had a Bafta award for anything in any of my films or television pieces. I have only ever had two nominations before and even those were for special short films. I can say nothing more eloquent

than those facts. I leave everyone to form their own opinions on that. "For that reason I let my mem-

bership lapse. When you get best di-

D'Or last year] and not even a nom-ination at Bafia, it was then I gave up. As somebody who has contributed fairly largely to the film industry, what that tells you about Bafta, well it

doesn't need me to spell it out." Even with three Bafta awards for his film. Leigh was loath to give good taste. "With the Oscar nominations, to have ignored Secrets and Lies would have been astonishing behaviour."

The lack of recognition for one of Britain's most successful, idiosyncratic and quintessentially British directors by the British film establishment does seem extraordinary. It is not only Bafta that has failed to recognise him. Earlier this year the Evening Standard Film Awards, decided by a jury of eminent film critics, ignored Secrets and Lies comdespite its Oscar nominations. The jury refused to consdier him

for best screenplay as they claimed that his method of involving the cast with an evolutionary screenplay dis-qualified him. Ironically, best screenplay was one of the awards he picked The Oscars, Leigh admitted ves-

terday, proved a crushing disappointment for him. Nominated for five categories, his film won none, while

Leigh said: "I actually quite like The English Patient and I like Tony Minghella [the director]. Of course, the famous night out at the Oscars when you have five nominations and walk away with nothing was not a nice night out for those of us involved with the film. It took our great sense of hu-

mour not to get pissed off.

"Many people in Hollywood said that *The English Patient* had got rather too much and we had got too little. But in the great scheme of things all the films that have taken awards are films that in the broad sense have intelligence and integrity."

Scientists find gene that built mighty mouse

Charles Arthur Science Editor

It sounds like something from an Arnold Schwarzenegger science fiction film: bodybuilders of the future could be produced in the womb, rather than

But a team of American scientists have produced geneti-cally altered mice which would win their species' bodybuilding contests, by knocking out a gene involved in regulating muscle growth. They produced mice with unusually large shoulders, three times the muscle mass, which were a third larger than normal.

The finding by a team at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore - reported today in the science journal Nature - could have important implications both for humans, in offering treatments for wasting diseases ike muscular dystrophy, and for



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producing extra large farm anpigs without the use of chemical additives or hormones.

It is more likely that the farming uses would come first rather as cloning has been done first with sheep rather than humans, because it involves the use of large numbers of embryo cells.

To produce the mice, the American researchers first took "stem cells" and disabled the gene called GDF-8, which codes for a growth-regulating chemical called myostatin.

cloned and injected into normal embryos. After being transferred into the wombs of female mice, the altered embryos developed normally. But once they matured, the mutant mice had individual muscles up to three times the mass of regular mice, and pronounced shoulders and bins.

As well as having potential for the treatment of neuromuscular diseases, the scientists believe the approach might also yield benefits for cancer patients suffering severe weight loss.

Holidays, PCs and DIY: savers rush to spend their share

Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Savers are spending again. Thousands of people are treating themselves by blowing building-society windfall handouts on holidays, computers and doing up the home. And the tourist industry has

been quick to make their bid to benefit from the extra cash with two holiday firms launching their summer 1998 brochures tomorrow - before most people have even taken this year's break.

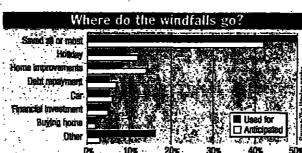
Nearly 15 million people are set to receive free shares from building societies changing into banks and which could be translated into cash payments averaging £1,000. If everyone eliging payouts would do so, with ble sold all their shares this year, more people treating themthere would be an extra £20bn floating around the economy equivalent to increased spending power of a 10p cut in the rate of income tax.

It is estimated that three in 10 people who received windfalls from the Alliance & Leicester windfalls, which has just floated on the stock market, have already sold their shares. The Halifax, the Woolwich and Northern Rock are all due to become banks as well over the next few months.

A report from the Henley Centre has found that while 50 per cent of those who received their windfalls saved them, only 42 per cent of those anticipatmore people treating themselves to luxuries.

The independent market research company GFK said consumer confidence was up eight points on the same time last year, the first time it had shown a positive reading since 1988. People reported that they were now more likely to buy a car. buy a house and set about home improvements.

The upsurge in consumer confidence GFK put down to households benefiting from the windfall cash as well as falling unemployment, and tax cuts. "It doesn't look like people are going to spend large amounts of cash," said Dave Walker, asso- ly with the election. ciate director of GFK. "They



machines or televisions or consumer durables. People are still a little bit nervous about their own situation and the general economic situation, particular-

Maeve Geraghty, associate centage of those intending to

director of the financial-services practice at the Henley Centre, said: "What is interesting is that those who had received their windfalls, a lot had saved them but those who anticipated getting them, the per-

save had dropped. Holidays and home improvements have particularly done well ... the majority of people were anticipating treating themselves." One in eight say they are go-

ing to spend their money on holidays, a fact both Airtours and First Choice were quick to take advantage of. Last year the companies set a record by launching the following year's brochures in July; this year it is

'We have found that there is extremely strong demand from those who want to take advantage of the very large savings on offer," said Philippa Harris, marketing director of First Choice. "The success of the early brochure launch is borne out

by the growth of bookings that First Choice has seen for summer '97 up 21 per cent year on year." A likely area of growth which had not been picked up on was home computers, added Ms Geraghty, as many of their prices fell into the windfall

range. But Jason Whittaker, of the magazine PC Advisor, warned against buying a computer because the money was burning a hole in their pocket. "If you're buying a computer to use up £1,000 that is the worst reason to buy," he said. "If you don't know what you are going to be using it for then you can end up spending far more on the software and the support."

Major charities had consid-

ered targeting fundraising at windfalls but decided against it. Michael Dangerfield, the trust's major gifts manager for the Cancer Research Campaign said: "We did talk about it but we thought that would be going over the line." A spokeswoman for the National Trust added that "it would be a really good idea if one had the time and resources to pursue it". All the major charities said they had no evidence of an increase in giv-ing due to windfalls. But Ms Geraghty said that despite good intentions and tempting offers, human nature would prevail.

"The money may be frittered away on nothing in particular despite what people might like to do with it."

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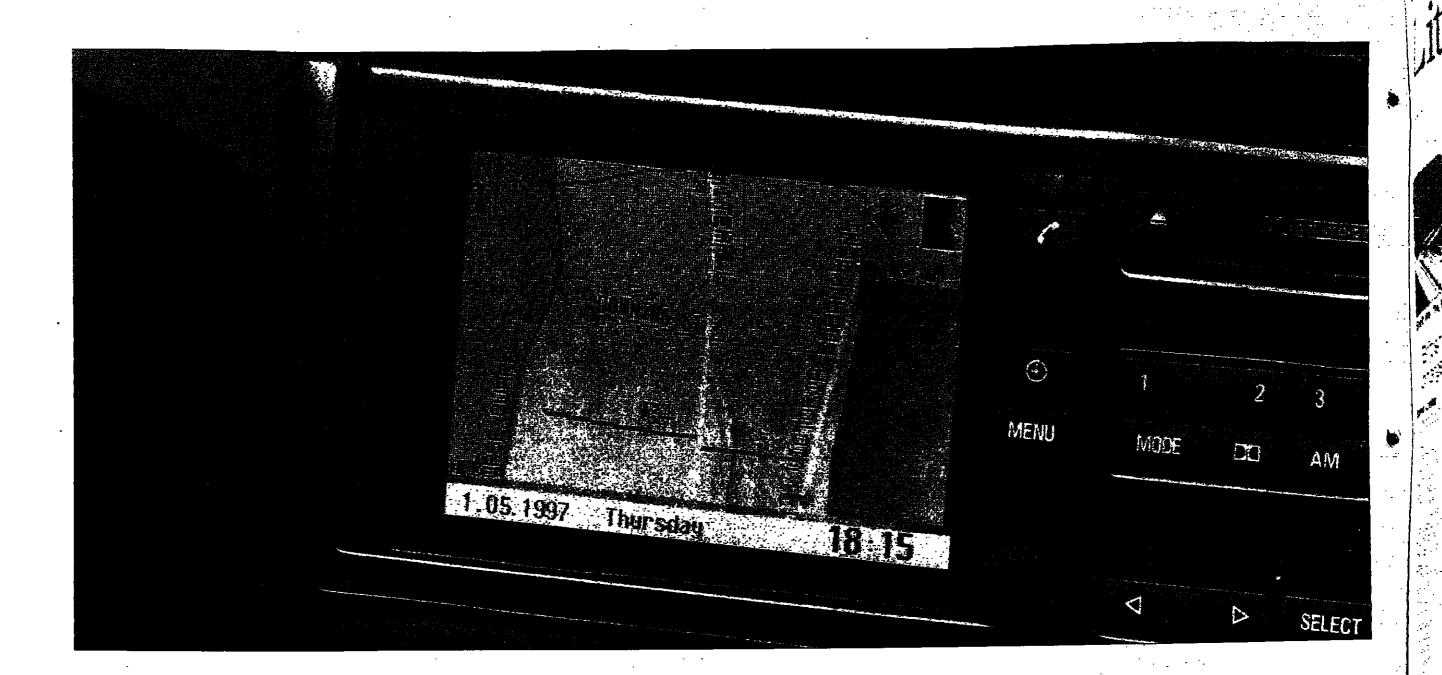
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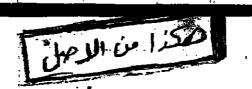
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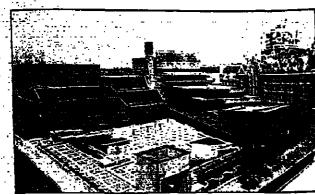


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Shelf life: The British Library at St Pancras

British Library threatens to charge reading room users

David Lister Arts News Editor

Literary London is presenting a unified front in opposing the possibility of having to pay to use the reading rooms at the new British Library.

The British Library vesterday issued questionnaires to its users asking their reaction to the possibility that it might for the first time in 250 years charge for access to its reading rooms.

The first reading room at the new St Pancras building opens this autumn. It will be the humanities reading room, the equivalent of the famous Round Reading Room at the British

Yesterday Brian Lang, chief executive of the British Library. said there was no current plan to introduce charges, and there was no possibility of charges being introduced in the near

future, as the last board meeting confirmed its support for the

tradition of free access. But he added: "In view of the very severe financial constraints under which the library is currently working and the uncertainty of future government grant in aid, the board requested the library management to conduct research into the subject without further delay."

The questionnaire proposes a range of annual charges for regular use of the British Library and asks users to indicate which prices they believe to be "reasonable", "expensive" or "so expensive that you would no longer visit the library".

The range extends from £50 a year to £700 a year, going up in £25 jumps. The research findings will be presented to the British Library board in July. The budget for the new St



Pancras building has risen from an original £116m to £511m. Reaction among regular users showed that the research is likely to find a hostile attitude

to charging.
Brian Lake, secretary of the Regular Readers Group, said yesterday there had been no consultation with the group before putting out the questionnaire. He added that there would be international ramifi-

"If American academics are charged here, will the American

Library of Congress start charging people from Britain?" he asked. The historian Lord Thomas of Swynnerton said he was opposed to charging for regular usage. Ben Pimlott, biog-

rapher of the Queen and of

support to Mr Lake to oppose charging in talks with the library management.

The historian Lady Antonia Fraser, who has used the British Library reading room for 43 years, said: "I think that citizens Harold Wilson, has lent his of this country should unques-

tionably have their rights to visit freely great collections which have been built up for them."

The novelist Malcolm Bradbury said: "It is a world class research library. It should be available to scholars on the principle of their research.

Hands on: Weavers of the **Edinburgh Tapestry Co** manoeuvring their 22ft-sq work - based on the artist RB Kitaj's painting If Not. Not - commissioned

by the new British Library Photograph: Tom Kidd

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Pay to view: the price of progress

Mark Rowe

Charges for admission at: merry sites were stopped during the late 19th century when a copular consensus gelitered pace that visits to places of culture and God should be free.

The case for charges at cathedrals was made in a Herrage and Renewal Re-port by Lady Howe which urged the richer cathedrals to raise more funds from visitors to help themselves

has roundly cendemned charges at many sites saying they are too expensive and give poor value...

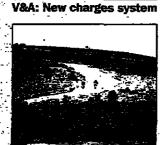
Five that charge

Victoria and Albert Museum: Introduced £5 admission charge for adults (£3 for OAPS, free for underis and students) in Octo-ber citing the "increasing seriousness of the Muse um's financial position".

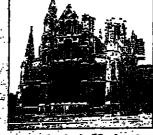
Westminster Abbey: Charges £4.to visit the Roy at Charget and Poets! Corner Admission to cloisters and knave are free though tour groups are charged £4 per head to enter the abbey. Sonsidering a flat charge to control numbers which were around 2.5m last year.

Ben Nevis: Highland Coun-cit has agreed to invite walkers who struggle up Britain's highest mountain as part of charity linkes to pay an un introduced charges 10 specified amount. The mon - years ago: £3 for adults.









Ely Cathedral: £3 charge

ey would help fund guides for the increasing numbers of charity climbers, gather litter and clean toilets.

Ely Cathedral: Receives 101,000 visitors every year Introduced charges 10

woman.

£2.20 concessions. "Charging has enabled us to break even, said a spokes-

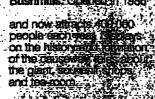
New Forest: 95 per cent of visitors go by car and the chronic congestion from the annual 9.5m vehicles has led to plans to introduce car parking charges. Plans have prompted protests by shopkeepers and villagers.

Five that are free

Royal Courts of Justice: Site of the High Courts and the Court of Appeal and home to more than 70 courts. Visitors will be subjected to a routine bag

National Gallery: Houses 2,000 paintings from 1260 to 1910 and receives five million visitors every year,

Glant's Causeway Centre, Bushmills: Opened in 1986



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es a great deal going on

ON MANAGERS SPECIALS

OFFERS MET SATURDAY

Inquiry told of doctor's fears over ecstasy girl

Jeremy Laurance

A surgeon strongly denied yesterday that she had refused a liver transplant on moral grounds to a teenager who had taken the drug ecstasy. Dr Hilary Sanfey told a fatal

accident inquiry into the death of Michelle Paul, 15, that her family had misunderstood the reasons for refusing her the £60,000 operation. However, she admitted that behavioural problems such as drug-taking had to be taken into account when considering which patients were suitable for transplant.

Dr Sanfey, 45, giving evidence on the fifth day of the inquiry at Aberdeen Sheriff Court, said she had met Michelle's mother and grandmother at the request of her colleague, Dr Niall Finalyson, who had told them that Michelle had suffered irreversible brain damage and was not suitable for transplant. She said: "He told me the

family were extremely anxious and had somehow got it into their heads that the decision was based purely on the basis of her behaviour and asked if I could come and clarify that and reinforce our position.

Dr Finlayson say that we were the family could be faced with



moral stance over transplant

not transplanting her because of her behavioural problems. "I said she must have mis-

understood what he said. I did say these were issues I would have to consider. I also said I've transplanted patients in the past who had taken ecstasy and that was not the reason in itself."

The doctor, who now works in the US, said the selection of patients for transplant was made by the whole team and it was "crazy" to suggest that she and review the situation. Withalone had the power to decide. She at first raised the possibility of Michelle having the operation but warned that she might The gran asked me why did suffer severe brain damage and

baving to switch off the ventiinterrupted and said it would not be what Michelle wanted Although they were clearly dis traught, they understood and were agreeing with me." Michelle, died in November

1995, 23 days after taking half a tablet of ecstasy at a rave near her home in Aberdeen. Originally taken to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary with suspected heparitis, she was later airlifted to Edinburgh when her condition deteriorated.

Dr Sanfey said she first saw Michelle on the morning after she was admitted to the Edinburgh hospital. She said she had noted the impression that the girl had an "extremely poor prognosis" and given her history of drug use and unstable family background - Michelle's mother and sister were known to use drugs - she should be excluded from transplantation.

However, she agreed with Dr Finlayson that they would seek further background information in 24 hours, Dr Finlayson had met with her to express concerns over possible irreversible brain damage caused by severe pres-

sure in her head. The hearing continues e when ange

ring.

Threats of violence as Maze talks stall

Warning from Loyalists in dispute over jail clampdown

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The dispute at Northern Ireland's Maze prison rumbled ominously on yesterday, with representatives of loyalist inmates failing to reach agreement with the authorities.

Several dozen prisoners affiliated to the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association are protesting against a tightening of security by the authorities Explicit threats have been made by the parent group against the

Prisoners set fire to observation posts at the prison, which is situated several miles outside Belfast, while some clambered on to the roof of some of the

ing taken seriously, since at last three prison officers have

been shot dead by lovalists over

the years, and many more have



militant, including some serving

UDA prisoners were disci-

refusing to co-operate with new

measures, which include twice-

Guess what time we're open

till on election night?

sentences for murder.

Turning up the heat: Loyalist prisoners burning a look-out tower at the Maze yesterday as the Ulster Democratic Party's Gary McMichael and John White speak to inmates

are regarded as particularly daily lock-ups, more headcounts and more random out of the prison.

> The loyalists claim they are being penalised for the behaviour of the IRA, since the clampdown was instituted following

the discovery of an IRA tunnel

Yesterday talks took place at Stormont Castle between senior the Ulster Democratic party, headed by Gary McMichael. table and we're having a meet-

life prisoner at the Maze, said afterwards: "Unfortunately we were not able to resolve the sit-

ing tomorrow to continue our discussions. It means the demonstration will go on, unfortunately, but there is still the hope that tomorrow we may get some answers to some of the suggestions that we made."

Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, said: "There is no excuse for loyalist factions issuing threats to staff and I condemn this action unreservedly. The new measures are not a punshment for anyone, they are quite simply the very minimum that the public can expect to ensure the safety of staff and

The Secretary of State for

Meanwhile, Finlay Spratt, Association, called for the res-

ignation of the prison administration, describing it as incom-petent. He added: "It's the job of the authorities to run the jail, and it's our job to apply the rules, but this crisis has been brought about by an incompetent management and they

should resign." The UDA, using its cover-name of Ulster Freedom Fighters, warned that if riot squads were sent in they would ensure price". It added: "The ball is with the prison authorities. They know how to bring this matter to an end." Yesterday several hundred people, most of them relatives of the prisoners involved, staged a demonstra-

Parents body attacked by charity bosses

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

The management and financial controls of England's largest and wealthiest parents' organisation are expected to be called into question by charity watchdogs in a report due out

Charity commissioners inestigating the running of the National Council of Parent over as chairman this month. Teacher Associations will raise concerns including the propri-

the spending of charity funds on legal advice following the sacking last November of two pro-reform trustees. Further income and £1.2m savings. inquiries are expected to follow.

The NCPTA, which represents almost 12,000 schools and has a £750,000 annual income. has been rocked in recent months by a bitter internal dispute marking the culmination of years of in-fighting over its

role and organisation. Charity Commissioners launched an inquiry in February this year following complaints including allegations of junketing by members in ex-pensive hotels. Concerns were Sunday, are expected to also raised over alleged mismanagement, conflicts of interest and inadequate financial be the removal of trustees.

controls within the charity. The claims have been

strongly contested by NCPTA leaders. Spokeswoman Margaret Morrissey earlier this year insisted the organisation could "defend itself to the hilt".

Turmoil within the NCPTA came to a head late last year with the sacking of trustees Sandi Marshall and Sean Rogers, who was due to take

Both claim they were elected by the membership on a ety of employment by the char-reformist platform to put the organisation on a more profes-The report will also examine sional footing. They say they want to see more help for parents in schools at grass roots level, making better use of the charity's

They were removed by their fellow trustees for "bringing the organisation into disrepute after a dispute with NCPTA

A chief executive appointed last year to run the charity following pressure from reformers left after three months and has

not been replaced. The Charity Commissioners. whose interim report will be discussed by NCPTA members continue their investigations. Their ultimate sanction would

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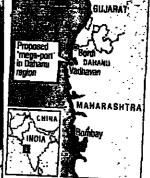


On election night we understand that you've got one more thing to do, which is why we're open till ten. That should give you plenty of time to cast your vote and do the shopping. And, as an added incentive to celebrate all night, Sainsbury's have put Blanc de Noirs Champagne on offer for £9.99, for Thursday only, saving you £2! So whichever way the swingometer is going, all parties should be swinging too. Sainsbury's

ng and shopping centre restrictions, a small mumber of dur stores are unable to remain open until 18PM. For the opening hours of your rearest store please contact your local sainsbury's, *C2 saving applies at the majority of our stores. Opper available while stocks last, the law does not permit the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18, reefax: 0800 800 955 e-mail: worksmart@whitbs.1.agw.bt.co.uk

Untouched by modern times, these tribal people find the might of P&O at their door





People in danger Members of the Warli tribe from the Dahanu region of Maharashtra. India, whose unique way of life, unchanged for centuries, may not survive the building of a massive port in the heart of their region

P&O, one of Britain's biggest companies, is facing accusations from environmentalists that it is threatening the cultural survival of one of India's tribal peoples with plans for a massive port development on the subcontinents' west coast.

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The Dahanu Warli tribe, who farm paddy fields in Maharashtra, remain unassimilated from the rest of India, keeping their own customs, religion and festivals. They live a simple life in huts made of wood, straw and cow dung. Unlike Hindus they eat beef, and unlike Muslims they eat pork.

Flower farms and tropical fruit orchards have given their homeland, Dahanu, a reputation as the "lungs of Bombay" and led to it being designated an ecologically fragile zone. It is here P&O proposes to build a 29-berth port, capable

6 If they get the go-ahead, the Warli way of life will be lost 9

of bandling 250 million tonnes of cargo, about eight times as big as the port of Liverpool. The "mega-port" will include a passenger terminal and facilities for delivering oil, coal and cement.

P&O dropped its bombshell in February, when its Australian arm, P&O Ports, said a £700m project to build a massive port to the south of the region was being moved to a more natural harbour at Vadhavan, inside the ecologically-sensitive zone. In spite of earlier official promises, the Maharashtra state officials enthusiastically wel-

comed the proposal.
P&O Ports said the £200m phase one of the project, to be undertaken by a proposed new company, Vadhavan International Port, would involve the development of 2,700 metres of quayside, including a berth for bulk cargo, an oil berth and a

Ancient culture of India's Warlis threatened by mega-port. Ian Burrell reports Nergis Irani of the mental impact of all that we do." Dahanu Taluka Environment Sources point out that the con-Welfare Association, said: "If struction of the Vadhavan port P&O get the go-ahead, it will may create 1,000 jobs and the bring about the industrialisation project would open the whole of the whole area and the Warregion up to economic devel-

li way of life will be lost." She

claimed the proposal breached

central government directives

designed to protect Dahanu

P&O is preparing its feasi-bility report for the port project,

which requires approval from

the Indian ministry of environ-

ment and forests. The compa-

ny has paid almost £100,000 as

environmental groups, includ-ing The Body Shop, Friends of

the Earth and Greenpeace,

have taken an interest in the project. More extreme groups have talked of protest actions against P&O commercial cruise

Richard Boehle, of Body

Shop, said: "P&O will have to be very careful how they pro-

ceed with this project, or the plight of the Warli people could become as damaging to them as the struggle of the Ogoni peo-

ple in Nigeria has become to

Lord Sterling of Plaistow, op-

erates in 16 companies across

five continents. It owns, or part

owns, 53 ports, from Manila in

the Philippines to Maputo in

in environmentally sensitive areas, like the Great Barrier Reef,

where it manages a tourist cen-

tre, the Dahanu issue is a po-

tential public relations disaster Management has declined to

comment publicly on criticism of the scheme, but company

sources have defended their

environmental record around the world and stress that it is working with local government

officials to minimise any dam-

sponsibility both as individuals

and in our business activities to take into account the environ-

In P&O literature, Lord Ster-

age caused by the project.

Although P&O has worked

Mozambique.

P&O, whose chairman is

An international network of

from developers.

security for its bid.

and ferry operations.

The British have built in Dahanu before. But they lived apart from the Warli villages, where a rich tribal culture had

evolved over many centuries. The Warlis developed their own form of painting on the insides of their buts, using a bamboo-stick as a brush and a paste made of tree gum, water and rice powder.

Dancing is central to Warli culture. Whole villages take part in a dance after the harvest to music from the sound of a

tarna, an instrument made from and water pumps and helped to a dried pumpkin. create fruit orchards. Dahanu now has a yearly pro-

The 175,000 Dahanu Warlis, whose dark skin distinguishes them from other Indians, have lived for most of this century alongside Zoroastrian farmers who migrated to Dahanu after facing religious persecution in

what is now Iran. The Zoroastrians built wells and say an improved water

supply could ensure the Warlis' self-sufficiency.

The threat to Dahanu first emerged a decade ago when the World Bank funded a project to set up a power station in the area to supply the urban sprawl chickoo tropical fruit, 70,000 of Bombay, 80 miles to the

> The plan ran into a storm of protests from environmental campaigners who claimed it would pollute the region's last remaining green area.

A succession of court hattles helped bring about the Dahanu Notification of 1991, in which the Indian ministry of environment declared the area "ecologically fragile" and banned changes in the pattern of land use or the transfer of tribal holdings. Environmentalists thought they had finally saved the region when the government identified Bordi, a Dahanu village, as the country's

first "eco-tourist destination".

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Blair caught taking down under clothes.

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MODEL FOR WHAT

BLAIR

ideas and aims which INTENDS clothe New Labour

Robert Taylor says the

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in The Spectator, OVER THE

ATLANTIC BUT TO DOWN UNDER. ??

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news

An urban sanctuary for bears or cynical showbiz?

Clare Gamer

Animal welfare campaigners yesterday condemned London Zoo's reintroduction of bears to its newly refurbished Mappin Terrace, which opens to the public on Saturday.

Bears have not been seen at the zoo in Regent's Park since the Map-pin Terrace was closed 12 years ago because the historic buildings were deemed unsafe and in need of major structural repairs.

At a cost of more than £160,000. the site has been transformed into Bear Mountain, a 2.300 square metre enclosure billed as "the world's largest urban zoo playground". Gone are the stark concrete slopes and bars which dated back to 1913. In their place are ropes, trees, undergrowth and "toys" for the bears' entertain-



ear necessities: London Zoo's new stars, a pair of Sloth bears, exploring London Zoo's newly refurbished Mappin Terrace yesterday

ment. Furthermore, London Zoo has introduced other species into the bears' enclosure in order to simulate natural conditions. They include muntjac deer, peacocks and a colony of leaf-eating monkeys. But the critics are not satisfied.

Jonathan Pearce, campaigns di-

rector for the World Society for the them, but really it's just a drive to get Protection of Animals (WSPA), described as "cynical" the zoo's importation of two Sri Lankan Sloth bears from Warsaw Zoo in Poland. Their real intention, he said, was not conservation, but to attract crowds. "They claim they are going to breed

a cute attraction," he said. Dr Roger Mugford, an animal psy-

chologist, insisted that however good the conditions, bears would always suffer in captivity. Dismissing the zoo's argument, he said: "London Zoo is totally about showbiz."

Had London Zoo really wanted to help with conservation, it should have turned Mappin Terrace into a bear sanctuary, according to Mr Pearce.

The 12-year-old jet black Sloth bears, a male and a female - the only ones in the UK - which now live at Bear Mountain are expected to be "a

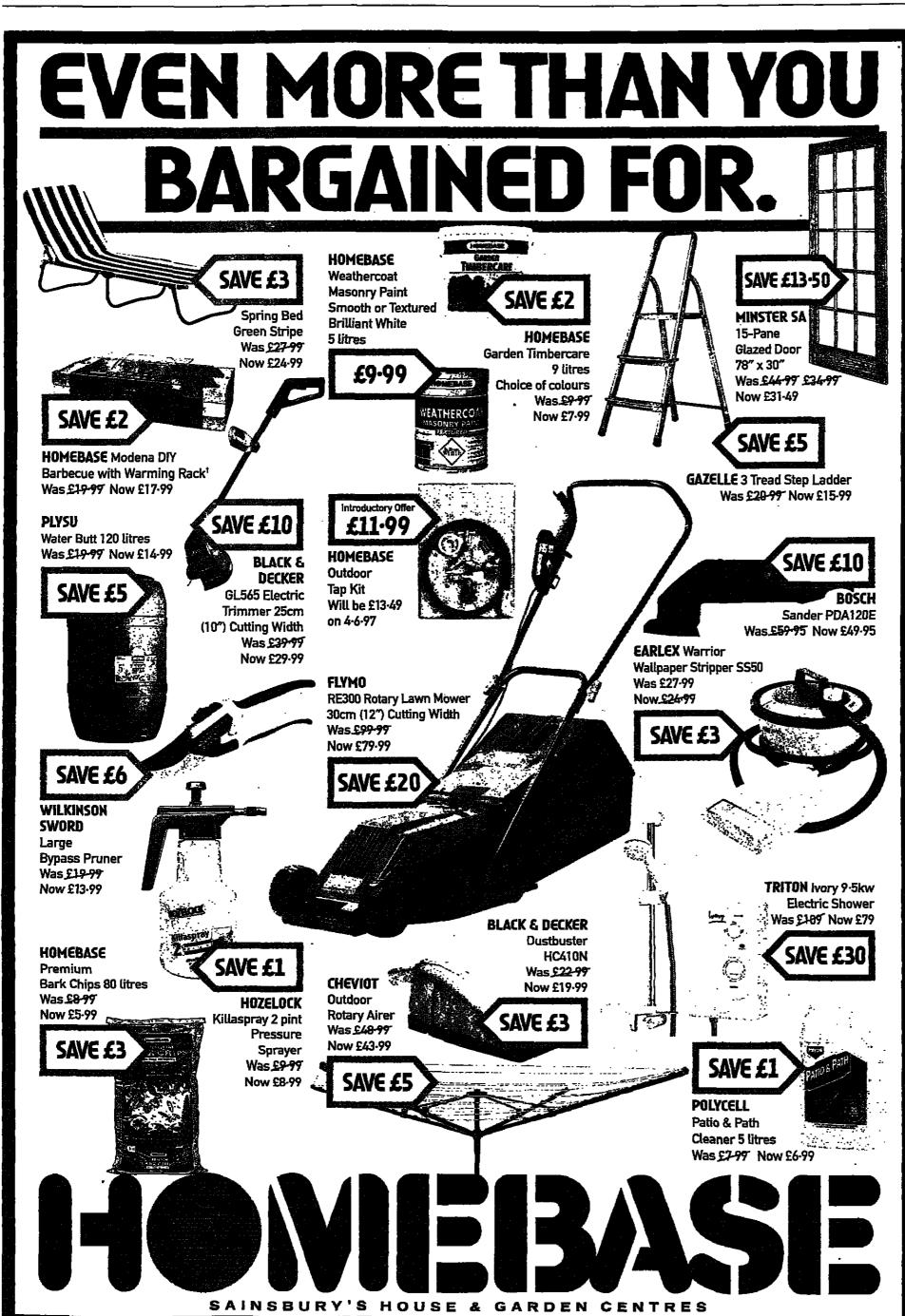
big hit among visitors". "Bears are incredibly popular with visitors and we are thrilled that they are now back at Regent's Park," said Dr Jo Gipps. director of London Zoo.

Doug Richardson, assistant curator of mammals at the 200, said the enclosure was built to give the ani-

Zoo's listed buildings

mals the chance to develop their mental faculties.

"Food is placed strategically at the top of a log or platform to en-courage the bears to climb on to it. They have obstacles and they



BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5TH 8AM - 7PM . MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM . FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM . SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM . SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM s not available at Bury St. Edmunds store. All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. "Stores in Scotland open Sunday Fam-6pm Opening times may vary. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

No takers for third of training awards

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent**

Over a third of the Government's flagship job training qualifications have never been completed by a single trainee. according to figures from the quango set up to promote them. A further 50 out of the 878 existing National Vocational

Qualifications have been achieved by just one person. Among the nation's least popular NVQs are level two qualifications in pest control. maintaining fire-extinguishing equipment, spectator control and funeral service, none of which has yet been awarded. ertificates in amusements.

hot rolling have also yet to be The revelation that a total of 380 individual NVQs have been achieved by one person at the most casts doubt on government attempts to promote the qualifications as central to Britain's

carton manufacture and steel

skills revolution. Since their launch in 1990, £106m of public money has been spent on developing and promoting NVQs, which are based on the principle of mea-suring candidates' competence

in particular job occupations.
The qualifications are under review after being criticised last year in a report on the 100 most popular awards by the industrialist Sir Gordon Beaumont. The Beaumont Report found NVQs were jargon-ridden, bureaucratic and needed revision to become more userfriendly. Critics have suggested the qualifications, which can be gained in the workplace or in colleges and training centres, are based on narrow job-de-scriptions, reducing their appeal and relevance.

The unpopularity of a large number of NVQs contrasts with the great popularity of a few. Figures from the National Council for Vocational Quali-fications (NCVQ) reveal that 23 awards have been completed by 5,000 or more trainees, while 91 have been gained by 1,000 or more trainees. The most popular NVQs cover business and service sector occupations including hairdressing, childcare

and retail skills. NCVQ yesterday said the figures on completed qualifications did not reflect the number of trainees who might be working towards them. That information is not collected centrally because the 120 NVQ awarding bodies do not agree on when to count a trainee as having embarked on a course.

A spokeswoman said there was a time lag between qualifications being accredited and the first person gaining a certificate while assessors were trained and other systems put in place.

Another factor was the high number of people opting to study only for sub-units of NVOs related to their particular occupation, rather than for the full qualification.
NCVQ admitted it was con-

cerned at the low take-up where a qualification had been available for some time. The spokeswoman said: "We will consider carefully whether these NVQs should stay in the system when they come to be re-accredited and we will tighten our criteria for deciding whether there is a market for new ones."

NVQs make up a fraction of the 16,000 vocational qualifications available! As a result of criticism, the Government has ordered a big reduction in the list of qualifications eligible for public funding.

DAILY POEM

A Good Read

By Tony Harrison

That summer it was Ibsen, Marz and Gide.

I got one of his you-stuck-up-bugger looks:

ah sometimes think you read too many books. ah nivver 'ad much time for a good read.

Good read! I bet! Your programme at United! The labels on your whisky or your beer! You'd never get unbearably excited poring over Kafka or King Lear. The only score you'd bother with's your darts, or fucking football ...

(All this in my mind.)

I've come round to your position on 'the Arts' but put it down in poems, that's the bind.

These poems about you, dad, should make good reads for the bus you took from Beeston into town for people with no time like you in Leeds -

once I'm writing I can't put you down!

This poem, from the sequence read this week on Radio 3 by Tony Harrison to mark his 60th birthday, can be heard tonight at 00.30. All the works chosen come from his Selected Poems (Penguin, £6.99) @Tony Harrison

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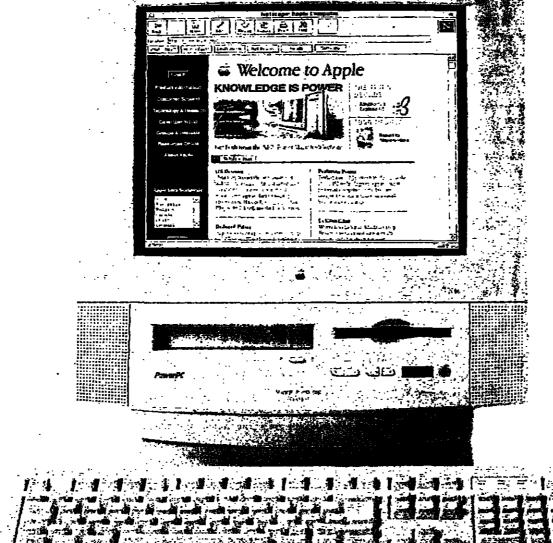
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*The Macintosh Performa 5400: 160MHz PowerPC 603e processor, 16MB RAM, 1.6GB hard disk drive, 16-bit stereo surround sound, built-in 15-inch/32,000 colour display, 8x CD-ROM drive and 28.8 fax/modern. Plus the following software: ClarisWorks, the Apple Internet Connection Kit, Apple Telecom, Performa ClickArt, At Ease, MacLink Plus, HyperCard Player, Acrobat Reader, Sammy's Science House, Thinkin' Things, the Ultimate Human Body, the Groller Multimedia Encyclopedia, the Best of European Soccer, Power Pete, Full Throttle, Descent and the Apple Magic Collection by Disney Interactive.

Always read the small print, before you buy.

Some computer manufacturers offer you "the latest technology" at unbeatable prices, others include "hundreds of pounds worth of software" valued at more than the cost of the whole system. Unbelievable? We agree. And if you share our concerns, look no further than the Macintosh Performa range – now starting at just £1,199 (£1,020.43 ex VAT).*

As exhaustively illustrated above, the Macintosh Performa 5400 is not only a highly specified system, but it comes with a host of top-quality pre-installed software titles too. Once you've paid your money, all you have to do is take it out of the box, plug-in and switch-on. And because it's as easy-to-use as any other Macintosh computer, you can be sure that you'll be able to put it to work quickly - whether it's your first business machine or a welcome addition to the home.

And whilst we're on the subject of deals, make sure you ask your nearest stockist about special offers that are now available when you also buy an equally honest Colour StyleWriter printer.

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Every day, another 90,000 people log onto the internet for the first time.

insomniac undergraduates, so ju how difficult can it all be?

The short answer not very And the long answer? Not very, read on.

An easy way to get is to visit the Yell® website. find it at http://www.yell.com



WARNING: this is a highly technical treatise on the internet Before reading it, you should be able to understand complicated terms such as "Yellow Pages", "plumber", "Polish" and "hotel". It is designed to be read by the average 59-year old human being. If there isn't one handy, rush out now and grab one before you go any further. You have been warned.



On-line shopping.

It's just like the real thing, except you can't

squeeze the vegetables.

On Yell, you'll find Electronic Yellow Pages® (the on-line version o your guessed it, Yellow Pages®), a film guide, a city guide and one or two other things, all arranged in a way that makes them easy to use.

EYP® (as we like to call Electronic Yellow Pages) is the comprehensive on-line source of information about businesses in the country. It includes the names, addresses, telephone numbers (and of course business type) of over 1.6 million companies.

Which is obviously rather a lot to look through when you need a horse breeder in a hurry. So something called a search engine does everything for you.

Should you be looking, it can also find you eight plumbers around Leek, two demolition experts in Wrexham and for "Boring" it will tell you to look under Civil Engineers.

With some businesses, you can click on the company's name and a hyperlink (a technical term for, well, a link) will transfer you out of Yell and take you to their home page. (To be any easier, we'd have to come and do it for you.)

Here you may find photographs of their staff and products a map[†] showing you where to find them and an address so you can send them an e-mail. (Don't worry if you're still using something as quaint as a telephone, the number is also listed.)

But there's much more than just good old Yellow Pages on good new Yell.



Yell, the website of yellow pages. Search engines, hyperlinks, web directories and for people over the age of seven, a button marked "help".

The film guide has news, reviews and a search facility. For example, if you want to find out about 1930's Polish cinema, you're probably a film geek. The good news is you don't have to be an internet geek as well.

> Yell's Film Finder has a directory of World Cinema sites and one of those search engines to help find the film you're looking for.

And "What's On Stage" will let you do the same for the theatre, darling.

The Guides section has London's newest exhibitions, the best restaurants and reviews of whichever bar is 'in' at the moment (it's updated every month). Luckily, there's

also a hotel guide in case you miss your last train home.

Of course, there's still one thing we haven't mentioned. But now that you've used the search engines, checked out the web directories and jumped down hyperlinks, what in the World Wide Web could you possibly want with a little button marked "HELP"?





Electronic Yellow Pages has 164 horse breeders and dealers.



The website of Yellow Pages. http://www.yell.co.uk

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election 97

'24 hours to change the country'

Steve Boggan aboard 'Blairforce One' reports on the last day of the Labour campaign

There was a time when the string of a Labour leader's election speech next to a Titanic memorial might have seemed a tad injudicious. Yesterday, however, as Tony Blair's campaign hurtled to its conclusion in Scotland and the North East, all such omens seemed only to conjure up thoughts of John Major and is beleaguered cabinet. The memorial, a modest

affair, bore the names of two Dumfries townsmen who went down with the ship when she sank in April 1912, and was situated in the town's Dock Park amid hundreds of cheering

imploring the crowd to vote and not be complacent, reminding the people of their choice - new Labour or five more Tory years blue skies, said he could imagine - it did not go unnoticed that one of the Titanic victims, John Law Hume, was a member of the band that played as the

vessel went down. It raised a few laughs and provided a striking contrast between the gloom of the Major campaign and the quiet confidence of Mr Blair's. There was a feeling -

at John Major's expense during an appearance on the Dumfries

platform by Richard Wilson, the star of, inevitably, One Foot in said, "is polluted by a bunch of

wherever he went.

This Tory government," he

And there were more laughs

One onlooker, whose nose had "Trusting John Major with become sunburnt waiting for the future of the country is like the Labour leader under brilliant trusting your wife and daughter with Alan Clark." We had arrived in Dumfries. grey clouds visiting Mr Major

Tory-held with a 6,500 majority. after rides aboard the Labour leader's BAC I-II - or Blairforce One as it has affectionately become known - and a Wagnerian convoy of 11 helicopters. Then it was back on board the choppers to Stockton to greet hundreds of market day

Middlesborough; finally ending the day at Trimdon Labour Club in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency.

Labour's campaign trail has been littered with celebrities, from Anita Roddick and Patrick Stewart (from Star Trek) to Sinead Cusack and Antony Minghella, director of The English Patient. And yesterday

After Richard Wilson came Steve Cram, the former console themselves with the

As Mr Blair spoke of his never spoken by his staff - that sleazy, rotten, shifty-eved self-plans for Britain's future, nothing could go wrong. seekers. shoppers; onwards by bus to visit Olympic runner, in Stockton, knowledge that, should Labour need in our schools, a school and a police station in and the actress Helen Mirren at win, Tory supporters Lord win, Tory supporters Lord a school and a police station in and the actress Helen Mirren at the Company of the Comp Middlesborough police station. There was an impression that the Labour campaign starbackers had been winners, or at least the sort of people who

hacked winners. So, as Mr Blair hobnobbed with the star of Prime Suspect at a police station, discussing zero tolerance policing and rounding off an almost flawless if dull - campaign, Conservative observers were left to

Lloyd Webber and the comedian Paul Daniels had promised to leave the country.

Mr Blair rounded off his

campaign last night in his Sedgefield constituency with a warning that voters had only 24 hours to change the country. Speaking at Trimdon Labour Club, he thanks party workers,

but insisted he was not taking victory for granted. During an emotional speech, he said: "We have only 24 hours home.

Service; 24 hours to give our children the education they "Twenty-four hours to give

hope to our young people and security to our elderly; 24 hours to decide how to build that decent, great British society we so yearn for.

Twenty-four hours in which the decision about the future of this country will be made."

Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, will vote in the constituency today and are expected to spend the rest of the day with their children at the constituency

PM fails to get the yolk as Labour turn rowdy

Colin Brown sees the first - and last - egg of the campaign thrown

John Major was mobbed in the final hours of the campaign yesterday by supporters of Barbara Follett, the Labour style guru. The scuffles were the last thing Tory image-makers would have wanted on the evening news before polling day.

Mr Major seized the opportunity to have a final go at the Labour campaign managers. whom he had accused of carrying out a "great marketing scam" on the electorate. "This is old Labour. If they had known our schedule they would have done it every day, everycan see it. I just wish they had seen it a little bit earlier. This isn't the sweet smiling faces of Labour ... This is the real

Labour Party."
An aide said Mr Major described it as the "hastiest" behaviour encountered in the campaign. "It was not just ... heckling. There were some ... pushing and it was very ag-gressive. We have some aggressive heckling at times from the Socialist Workers Party and the Referendum Party but this is the worst behaviour and it came from people holding up authorised New Labour

Mr Major was never in real danger, surrounded by detectives and camera crews, but an egg was thrown - the first of the campaign. It landed on the Prime Minister's bomb-proof Daimler, into which Norma Major had been taken for her safety by her detective.

Some Labour supporters booed and chanted "one more day". A few jostled Conservative supporters, who held up protective placards and a ragged blue banner. Ken Follett, the author and husband of the Labour candidate, watched from the safety of the pavement as the melée took place around the trolleys of a supermarket. Mr Follett, carrying sand-wich boards with his wife's pho-

tograph, said: "I think he is just

going through the motions. Our canvassing figures are so good we don't believe them." He looked bemused by Mr Major's old-style campaigning tech-niques. "I wonder what the point is. The Tories are terribly angry. Have you noticed they say nasty things and they are popping our balloons with cig-

Mrs Follett was a few hundred yards away in the town centre, where Labour supporters, tipped off about Mr Major's visit, had been planning a boisterous welcome. Her husband where. These are Labour ac- said: "It would not have been tivists. They don't agree with very dignified for her to be Labour policy. This is real here." Shella Gunn, the Prime "The Prime Minister doesn't believe there are any no-go areas in the entire UK. He expects the right to be heard in a democracy to put his point over, even with people who disagree with him. These people didn't want to hear his arguments. It shows the Prime Minister is prepared to go anywhere to take his message to the country, whatever the behaviour of Labour's supporters."

Earlier, the campaign ap-peared to be drifting towards a quiet ending as Mr Majorde-cided to highlight his commitment to sport.

After travelling more than 10,000 miles to attack Labour, his visit to an exhibition next door to Wembley Stadium to see the FA Cup seemed an extraordinarily low-key way to end the campaign. Mrs Major, who has done her best to look interested, no matter how dull the photo-opportunities in various places across the country, found it hard sustaining her smile to the very end.

The Major posed with the FA Cup and photographers shouted: "Put it on your head Mr Major." But he resisted the temptation. At that moment. the words of David Coleman came to mind: "They think it's all over ..." Stevenage showed that Mr Major will go on kicking until the final whistle at 10pm tonight.



Last gasp: John Major (above) besieged by Labour supporters in Stevenage; Tony Blair and John Prescott in action in Sedgefield (below left) and Paddy Ashdown in Christchurch



GOOD DAY



Ashdown in final push to win over the disillusioned

Lib-Dem leader has blitzed floating voters. Barrie Clement reports

Paddy Ashdown yesterday made his final play for the votes of the Great Disillusioned in flying visits to eight constituencies and sending 2 million letters to floating voters.

After Tony Blair's reaffirmation of plans for a referendum on proportional representa-tion, the Liberal Democrat leader sought to maximise his national percentage of the vote through the nationwide letter campaign.

He believes that substantial support in constituencies all over the country would be turned into a far greater number of MPs after electoral

also attempted yesterday to fulfil their more immediate aim of returning the maximum number of MPs to Westminster. Mr Ashdown's aides made it

clear last night that they exnected to exceed the 26-strong presence in the last Parliament. and Mr Ashdown ventured that the party was on the threshold of an historic breakthrough.

His letter has gone to undecided voters throughout Britain compiled from canvassing returns. In it Mr Ashdown urges those who are concerned about the current "funding crisis" in education and health to turn their backs on Labour and Tories.

The Liberal Democrat leader, who indicated his expectation of a Blair government at yesterday morning's press conference, said there was a 'danger" that Tony Blair would fail to deliver the necessary changes. He reminded the floating voters that the Liberal Democrats had said what they wanted to achieve and how it would be paid for, but the letter failed to spell out that it meant higher taxes.

On the final day of his campaign - which has taken Mr Ashdown on a 17,300-mile odyssey around 64 constituencies - the Liberal Democrat leader helicoptered to eight key seats in southern England and the West Country.

In a refuelling stop at Exeter Conservative government.

airport Mr Ashdown encountered Michael Heseltine. At first the Lib-Dem leader began to approach the Deputy Prime Minister, but then thought better of it with television crews and reporters in attendance. Such a conversation would have been "off message", as one of Mr Ashdown's aides put it.

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eginning,

After a long, hard campaign Mr Ashdown seemed to be making speeches on auto pilot. At Haymoor Middle School, mid-Dorset, he told a throng made up largely of children which gathered around his helicopter that they would have to pay more taxes under a Liberal Democrat government.

s of "Paddy, Pa he told them they wouldn't have to wait as long for a hip operation. The unthinking enthusiasm of 12-year-olds for a politician left a strange taste in the mouth. Despite minor hiccups, Mr Ashdown has clearly enjoyed the hustings. He told reporters yesterday: "1992 was a good

campaign. This has been a great He felt his battle for votes had turned the corner on Monday night in Oxford when he was forced to address hundreds of his supporters who were unable to get into a packed town hall

to hear his formal speech. "I felt then that the party was getting stronger and stronger and the message we were putting across was getting a warmer and warmer welcome."

Last night he addressed his final rally of the election. Addressing supporters at the Riviera centre, Torquay, he hammered home his constant theme that his party's manifesto was a "menu with prices. Unlike the Conservatives, the Lib-Dems would keep their promises," he said.

He told party activists to go and "work your socks off" in the final hours of the election campaign. He reminded supporters that a vote for Labour in the South-west would mean that they would wake up tomorrow morning with a Tory MP and a

THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

THE CAMPAIGN

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cartoon in 1853 was one of the

KEY ARGUMENTS

Despite the poli evidence, John Major. was still arguing strongly yesterday that the Conservatives could win.

"There are huge numbers of people who are undecided; there are also lots of people who are undeclared, who perhaps have made up their minds. and I believe we are going to win," he

"I'm bending every aspect of my will and my energy to making sure that I can carry on the work I have sought to do over the last six and a half years". Paddy Ashdown was similarly gung-ho. In a letter to 2 million.

floating voters, he wrote: "We stand on the threshold of an historic victory. "The only vote that will make a difference for you and your family's future is a vote for the Liberal Democrats.*

Tony Blair was the only party leader not predicting victory yesterday. "I ask for your vote because I believe in this country and I know and believe it can be better," he said as he headed for Scotland. The Labour leader said that his

party would "strive for every single"

vote in every comer of the country".

ONE TO REMEMBER

Thinks Blair on breatile again, thanks right in through 45 deeps of the campaign with hardly a fool pittyrrong. More any right perfects, none of his Shadow Cabinethave put their feet in Halther, and sitere have been no Jesuiller's ear disasters. A feeting of barely consisted "bubbling biss" yes evident in the party yesterday.

Was evident in the party y

want a mild sense of anticipation.

Blist said. "I think that wouldn't be

overdoing it."

Tony Blair told The Independent at yesterday's morning press conference: The promises that we have made are specific, they are limited, as I often point out, they are limited, but they are specific, and if we deliver on those, then I think we're entitled to trust. "If we don't deliver on those, then we'll not be."

Consider has the smallest to the country of less 19. The country of less 19. The relative test 10 disgranted constituents to cust him

A secretary expense the Today programmer "All that neetly concerns mention for the facility is a start the new partiament is going to do. Because it we will be a supposed to the secretary and the construction of the secretary and the construction of the secretary and the construction of the secretary and the secretar

THE OTHER PARTIES

Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, sent his party workers out to the constituencies, calling them "bravehearts" and predicting a "barreHoad" of seats. Addressing activists

in Edinburgh, he said: "We must decide if we wish to speak as a powerless parish council, or ... a sovereign parliament."

The Monster Raving Loony Party held their election victory party last night - several hours before polling began. Lord Sutch said it was a tradition to hold the party before the election. "We often find other parties send their workers to our parties especially as most of them won't have anything to celebrate after the election."

MEDIA STAR



une recommente Avergaret Comes, a Conservative activity in Spiritempton, was not couled by a recent article about the in Spirite Sunday Mirror entitled. Two forest used the assurer sent of and their MP Grew I was fickling the cole. She phoned BBC Barlio 4's Election Call yesterbay to be as John Nation for the falling to put across the Conservative message during the campaign. We are going to best formorrow, John because we have not got that message across, we have not woken up in time to the fact those goal posts have moved ... and that ultimately has to rest at your door.

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Labour lead stays rock-solid to the end

M Registration Cars

Tony Blair is set to become prime minister tomorrow, with Labour still 17 points ahead in the final Independent/Harris poll. But the pollsters remain ittery about predicting the precise margin of victory.

Tom Simpson, managing director of Harris Research, has estimated what might happen if people behave the way they did at the last election, and suggests Labour's lead in the real vote today could be cut to 11 points.

Although all the polls, apart from MORI, adjust the don't knows and won't says to take account of Conservative supporters who are reluctant to declare themselves, Mr Simpson said: "We can't be sure we've got all of them this way, so we've made a stronger adjustment on the basis of what happened

He assumes a late swing on the same scale as in 1992. Applying this adjustment to today's poll cuts Mr Blair's majority of 173-179 seats to around 99.

But the evidence from the poll itself suggests that Labour's

Which party do you trust most to take the right decisions about ...? (1992 NOP/BBC exit poll in brackets)

The economy	income tax	Prices and
49 (35)	45 (32)	46 (33)
34 (51) 10 (14)	· 35 (53) · 15 (15)	39 (53) 10 (14)
	49 (35) 34 (51)	49 (35) 45 (32) 34 (51) 35 (53)

and prices (see table), our questions are directly comparable with those asked by NOP in the

BBC's exit poll at the last elec-

tion. Labour's rating is 13 or 14

points higher than in 1992, and

the Tories are between 14 and

Labour was also ahead by 16

oints on law and order and by

12 points on Europe. When

Harris asked about the impact

of the European Union as an

election issue, 24 per cent said

it made people less likely to vote

Conservative, against 16 per cent who said it made people

more likely to do so.

18 points lower.

vote is solid. While 81 per cent of Labour supporters said they had "definitely decided" how to vote, only 68 per cent of Tory voters were sure.

Of Tories, 23 per cent said: "I may change my mind", against 33 per cent of Liberal Democrats and only 13 per cent of Labour supporters. The second preferences of Tory waverers tilt towards the Liberal Democrats, while those of Liberal Democrats split nearly three-to-one in Labour's favour.

We asked which party voters trusted most to take the right decisions in five areas and found Labour ahead in each one.

REPAIR MANUAL

M Registration Cars

the one most important reason for supporting the party you in-tend to vote for?"

This is comparable to a question Harris asked in its exit poll for ITN in 1992, and the answers are very similar. "The party's policies" were named by 45 per cent (47 per cent in 1992); "I usually vote for that party, 20 per cent (20); "Dislike of another party." 15 per cent (15); "The party leader". 7 per cent (7); "The local candidate" 4 per cent (5). On the economy, income tax

Finally, Harris asked what people thought of the "new" Labour Party. Half the sample, 49 per cent, said the changes show Tony Blair "is a strong leader with a clear sense of direction". Of Conservative voters, 23 per cent also thought that Mr Blair was a strong leader. Harris Research interviewed 1,154 adults face-to-face in their homes on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday this week. The figures exclude 14 per cent who didn't know, wouldn't say or wouldn't vote, who could not be allocated to a party on the basis of how they voted in 1992.



Star of 45: If polls are right Tony Blair will match Clement Attiee's rout of the Tories

Poll leads raise spectre of the rout of 1945

John Rentoul

Only twice this century have the Conservatives been routed on a scale suggested by today's

opinion polls.
In 1945, the Tories were reduced to just 213 MPs. Labour, led by Clement Attlee, won 393 seats and a majority of 146. But six years later, the Labour Government was out of power.

In 1906, the Tories were cut to 157, with the Liberals under Henry Campbell-Bannerman winning by a margin of 130 seats. The Tories were out of power until the wartime coalition of 1915.

If today's Independent/Harris poll reflects how people vote, Labour would have a majority of 177 and the Tories would be left with 184 seats.

"This is not a landslide country." He could not be more wrong. For the purposes of tonight's electronic swingometer, the BBC has defined a landslide as a majority of 100 seats or more. On this definition, nine of this century's 25 general elections al Health Service.

Apart from the Liberals in 1906 and Labour in 1945, the remaining seven have all been Tory victories. The Marquis of Salisbury won a majority 134 in the 1900 "khaki election" during the Boer War. Stanley Baldwin won a majority of 223

in 1924, the election which saw the demise of the Liberal

The Tories had a notional majority of 331 in 1931, although Ramsay Macdonald was Prime Minister of the National Government, which itself had a majority of 493. Mr Baldwin was back with a majority of 249 in 1935. Harold Macmillan also had a majority of exactly 100 in 1959. Harold Wilson in

1966 was just short with a 96 ma-

ation to pay for the start of the

jority. And then Margaret Thatcher won by 144 in 1983 and 102 in 1987. What is intriguing is that both the 1906 and 1945 anti-Tory landslides marked new beginnings in the country's political history. The 1906 Liberal Government levied progressive tax-

Tony Blair said on Monday: welfare state, including the introduction of the old age pension. The 1945 Labour Government built the "cradle to grave" welfare state (to a blueprint by the Liberal Sir William Bev-

er hand, have tended to be endorsements of what went before. The Tories won the 1979 election, which marked the beginning of the Thatcher revolution, by a majority of 45 seats, and only went on to win

Businessman rebuffs claim on donations

Westminster Correspondent

Paul Sykes, the millionaire businessman who has given £500,000 to local Conservative parties whose candidates opoose the single currency, has rebuffed suggestions that his donations would jeopardise their parliamentary future. Mr Sykes, who is firmly op-

posed to the single currency and federalism, has exacerbated divisions within the Jory party by giving between £1,000 and £3,000 to areas with a sitting Tory MP. The money has been taken up by 237 associations, costing Mr Sykes about £500,000, but he argues that suggestions that he gave the money to candidates are wrong. He said yesterday: "The mon-

ey was given to constituency associations and not candidates, and we checked the situation legally very carefully before making the donations. Mr Sykes yesterday issued a

writ against the Guardian for libel after it ran a story saying: "This man gave money to 237 Tories. They may well regret it." Mr Sykes is demanding a retraction and an apology and

warned that he was prepared to pursue it all the way. "I hope they give in, because I don't want to cause any job losses at the paper," he said. He also de-manded the resignation of the editor, Alan Rusbridger. It is unclear whether Sir Gor-

don Downey, the Commission for Parliamentary Standards, is likely to receive a complaint about the donations when Parliament resumes. If so, he may be asked to produce a report for



the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee to de-cide whether they contravene rules issued 18 months ago by Parliament following the cashfor-questions affair.

Labour was officially playing down the story because it did not want Europe to become an issue on the day of polling. However, individual MPs or members of the public will be able to table a complaint after the election to Sir Gordon 🚁

It is not certain whether the donations breached the rules, which say members should not take payments for speaking in the House on a particular issue, nor can MPs enter into any "contractual arrangement which fetters the Member's complete independence in Parliament by any undertaking to press some particular point of view on behalf of an outside interest." Mr Sykes argues that these MPs already held anti-single currency views beforehand and that they did not benefit personally from the donation.

TOYOTA COROLLA 48th Once again the BBC Top Gear/ JD Power survey speaks volumes. No prizes for guessing which car came top in the BBC Top Gear/JD Power and Associates 1997 UK Customer Satisfaction Study. Drivers of all the leading makes were asked questions covering vehicle performance, number of problems experienced and customer care. And, for the fourth year running, the world-beating Toyota Corolla was rated the UK's single most satisfying car by the most important judges of all - the car owners. And the runner up was the stunning Toyota Celica. To quote from the report "Vehicle quality is the outstanding strength - Toyota owners report fewer problems on average than owners of any other make." No surprise, then, that they voted both the car in front and the one behind it a Toyota. REPAIR MAI UAL M Registration Cars M Registration Cars FORD ESCORT VAUXHA'L ASTRA 79th 84th THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA... AGAIN STUDY BASED ON A TOTAL OF 16,498 CAR CONSUMER RESPONSES, RANKINGS TAKEN FROM 'TOP GEAR' MODEL, SCORES AS FEATURED IN MAY EDITION OF BBC TOP GEAR MAGAZINE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE TOYOTA RANGE CALL 0800 777 \$55.

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Labour's power handover

Christian Wokmar Westminster Correspondent

of the night, the first official

move will be made by the Prime

Minister's private secretary,

make an appointment for Mr

Major to tender his resignation.

take place in late morning, and

Mr Allan will stay for a cup of

tea to await the arrival of Mr Blair. Mr Major, who arrived in

his official car, will leave in the

back up vehicle, probably to spend the weekend in Hunt-

ingdon. Meanwhile, Mr Blair

will arrive in his leader of the

opposition's car, see the Queen

- no kissing of hands, accord-

ing to official sources - and

The meeting will probably

Civil servants are already preparing for new masters

The transfer of power after a British general election is leave as almost the prime min-ister. The official annointment condition you would expect to find a holiday flat"—except that painfully public for the loser. does not come until a meeting Assuming the polls are right. of the Privy Council, probably and after John Major concedes, held on Saturday evening, at which would be in the middle

given their scals of office. The flat upstairs at No 10 is furnished and the Majors will Alex Alian, who will ring up his counterpart at the Palace to have put their chattels into store, leaving it in "the sort of

which the new Cabinet will be

it has no cutlery. This should not he too much of an immediate problem because the Blairs will continue living in Islington for the next few weeks, before moving into the four bed-

weekend for the leading lights among MPs who will be sitting by their phones waiting for the call from Mr Blair's office. roomed flat "above the shop".

appointments are expected to be announced tomorrow night. Then there will be the 60 or 70 junior posts. It will be a difficult

The civil servants view a suc-Mr Blair's first task will be to cessful transfer of power as the appoint the Cabinet and the first biggest challenge of their ca-

New administration plunges in to hectic schedule

Following the six-week election campaign, the really hard work begins - once the Prime Minister has formed and announced his

The diary then begins to look hectic:
Monday 5 May: Start of two-day meeting of the
European Union's Inter-governmental conference,
in Strasbourg, on preparation for Amsterdam summit in June.

Wednesday 7 May: Formal re-election of Com-mons Speaker - Betty Boothroyd. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 7,8,9 May: Swear-

ing in of new MPs. After early rush, a steady flow of MPs will swear (or affirm) an oath of allegiance to the Queen until the Commons is adjourned for the State Opening.

Thursday 8 May: The first Cabinat meeting, to agree contents of Queen's Speech legislative pro-

gramme for the year. Monday 12 May: Chancellor of the Exchequer attends Ecofin council in Brussels on European Monetary Union.

Wednesday 14 May: The official State Opening of Parliament, with Queen's Speech.

reers. There have, already, been extensive preparations with shadow ministers being allowed to see permanent secretaries since January last year with Mr Major's blessing. Neil Kinnock apparently found these meetings so valuable that he wanted to ensure that Mr Blair was able to take advantage of them. Mr Kinnock wrote to Mr Maior after his defeat to ask if shadow ministers could have early access to ensure that they would not miss out should there have

been a snap poll. All departments have pro-duced large briefs for new ministers and civil servants have also made plans for the new Department of International Development promised in the Labour manifesto. The Department of Education has also bought equipment and prepared a team of readers as David Blunkett, who is blind, has been promised the job should Labour win.



by Aanonymous

Britain slept or made love - their and sighs floating up to heaven – our characters were keeping the watches of the night. Nipper - exhausted - had lis-

tened to the midnight bulletin, set his pager to "vibrate" and put it under his pillow. Apart from a vague, unlocated randiness, he was now hardly a corporeal being at all. Each step of his shining career had been accompanied by such a moment of pure in-tellectual calm. From school to university, from university to leader's office - and now - from leader's office to Number 10. He turned twice

on his futon, and was asleep. Queen Mum lay half awake in the hotel room, her sub-conscious tyrannised - like the mother of a boy to be bar-mitzvahed the next day - with arrangements. Timetables, microphones, stewards, piranhas, secret service

agents, airplanes and crash barriers floated around her poor head. As well as that odd sense of loss, which - had she been fully awake, she might have realised - stemmed from the fact that, in victory, she was probably losing the Candidate forever. For on Friday morning and ever after, others smoother and more practised - would have the charge of him.

London E5. Whizz was alone in the large bed, his other half far off in the North, from where she would shortly be sent as the youngest MP in the House of Commons. They had spoken at midnight on the telephone, a strangely tender and wistful conversation, both aware that their lives would never be the same after tomorrow, and that the change - which they had sought so earnestly - might not all be good. As soon as her voice was gone, Whizz - out of habit - had called Mr Brown in Scotland. But there was little more for them to say. Now Whizz was trying to capture sleep by conjuring up images of his new desk at the Treasury, the meetings of eggheads who would put the world to rights, and the seminars he would address at Harvard. Sleep thus invited, duly arrived.

Three hundred miles away a sleepless Mr Brown sat in an armchair, a glass of whisky on the table beside him, and - by the light of a stan-

dard lamp - jotted down yet more notes (to add to the tomes he had already written) for his first Budget speech. It would be a belter. Aunty, in the room next to Queen Mum's, climbed into her nighty, cleaned her teeth,

plumped up her pillow and - after a brief reflection that she had done all she could, and that it all felt far better than five years ago - fell into a deep dreamless sleep.

Bobby's sleep, however, was far from dream-less. His night mind was peopled by feather-hatted governors-general and sashed ambassadors, furnished with spacious offices and beautiful paintings. History books fell open to reveal his photograph and to tell of great administrations and reforms.

Mrs Candidate called the nanny at 11pm, to make sure that all was well at home. The kids were fast asleep, and she had pictured them as they must have been, breathing gently - their eyelids trembling as they sailed

the high seas with pirates or got into trouble with surreal head-6 He stood and masters. To her tired irritation her last waking thoughts had prayed. Not for strayed again to curtains and carpets. Then she was asleep. victory, but for As dawn rose in the small village, and the first light leaked wisdom \supset into the room, she laid an arm over her husband's side of the bed - where it flopped onto the

empty sheet. The Candidate looked out onto the dewy lawn, over whose wet length a few wisps of mist were drifting. By the light he judged that it was shortly after 4am, the first birds began calling from the trees at the end of the garden. He had woken half an hour earlier, not with a start, but simply as though it was now time - early as it was - for his day to begin. Taking care not to wake his wife, he had slipped downstairs in his blue pyiamas. poured himself a glass of Badoit from the fridge, and come to stand at this window to watch this

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eginning,

He was not, he knew, a particularly humble man. People had usually thought well of him, and he had always supposed that they must have a point. But today really was his date with destiny. From leading a party - a tricky thing to be sure - he would be going to running a nation. So he stood there by the window, as the sun rose, and prayed. Not for victory, but for wisdom.



Guardian of democracy: Peggy Saich, a local government employee who is acting as a presiding officer in Saffron Waldon, Essex, standing over the ballot box that she – like many others in rural constituencies – will look after overnight in her home

Astrologers chart cosmic encouragement for Blair

according to the astrologers. He has played right into Tony Blair's Venus ascendant. Unless the stars are

leading Britain into the new milleni-

um. Paddy Ashdown cannot expect

wrong, it will be a Labour government

Kim Sengupta

John Major may as well stay in bed today, it's not just the polisters who are predicting a disaster, he also faces a cosmic meltdown. The Prime Minister could not have chosen a

"It is quite obvious that the Prime Minister did not take astrological advice when setting the election date." said

astrologer Jonathan Cainer, who writes a

horoscope column for the Daily Mail and magazines such as Woman and Prima. "If

he had he would have known that this

was precisely the wrong time to call it.

Tony Blair must feel it is a gift from

heaven which has landed in his lap. "Both Margaret Thatcher and Ronald

Reagan took astrological help when

making important decisions, and the

1 May is in Mr Blair's sign of the

end of last year, when the stars were

much more benign for him.

zodiac, Taurus, and the Sun is also there

was hardly a foolish thing to do."



Born 29 March 1943)



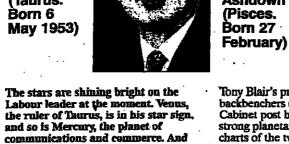






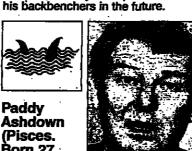






Rupert Murdoch's Sun is not the only one backing Mr Blair, the planet by the same name is also in Taurus. Jonathan Cainer said: "This is undoubtedly a very anspicious time for Mr Blair. Mr Major has given him the advantage by the timing of the election. But the Labour leader has a particularly

longevity of their political lives show this good planetary situation as well." But there could be trouble ahead. Mr Cainer said that for Taureaus "Jupiter's sharp link to Venus is a classic cosmic warning. You are in danger of getting at the moment. Mr Cainer says Mr Major at the moment. Mr Camer says in that too much of a good thing. You may soon should have gone to the poils towards the should have gone to the poils towards the bave to pay a high price for a source of have to pay a high price for a source of



much immediate change from today.

He may yet find himself part of a Lib-Lab coalition, because although

But for him things can only get better.

the stars are favouring Mr Blair at the

moment, he may have problems with

Tony Blair's problems with Bolshie backbenchers could get Mr Ashdown the Cabinet post he covets. There are also strong planetary connections between the charts of the two men— the Sun and the Moon when Mr Blair was born, to the

 Leo ascendant in Mr Ashdown's Pisces.
 Nicholas Campion said: "Obviously the chances of the Lib Dems winning the election are about as great as Elvis Presley landing a flying saucer on top of the Loch Ness monster. But he could end up with a job in government. There are strong planetary links between the two men. There need not even be a hung Parliament for Ashdown to get involved.

The two men should work well together." Jonathan Cainer said: "Over the next few months [Ashdown] will find himself going through a period of renewal which proves immensely beneficial."

Downloading from the Internet without ISDN?

Here's something to pass the time.



Fig. 2. Lemon Golf is not always won by the expert golfer!

Candidates lost among the junk mail

Nicholas Schoon

In one of the safest Tory wards in a safe Tory constituency, the election simply has not registered. Nary a sign of a canvasser, let alone a candidate, and only one window poster in our street - for the Referendum Party. The long, grinding struggle

for votes has been conducted solely in the media as far our household is concerned. - No battle bus has passed through Bromley that most suburban of outer south London. cartoon in 1853 was one of the to the moment when a women

boroughs, and only one candidate's debate has been held, organised by the local Council of Churches. Not being church-goers we never heard about it, and Euro-sceptic Education minister Eric Forth, did not attend. constituency. They've said they

1965, said that public meetings were now history. "We used to stituency agent, Michael Tutor, hold them but we stopped at the said that by now the Schoon last election because only half household should have had a dozen people would turn up. three leaflets from his party, two We used to book small halls and delivered by the Post Office and

there to make up the numbers." Labour's candidate for the to deliver in some wards. Bromley and Chislehurst seat, Rob Yeldham, said the Post Ofthe Conservative candidate, fice had delivered 300 of his election addresses in the wrong

Derek Hamon, the Tory would put matters right, but I've agent in the constituency since no way of knowing if they have."

about the Royal Mail being slow

Mr Hamon, for the Tories, said: "I find it quite incredible that you've had no leaflet and rather disturbing. We've fought a very vigorous campaign here." Mr Tinor said: "I think we are

in danger of getting lost among the junk mail." He agrees with Mr Hamon that it has been difficult to engage Bromley man and woman during the long campaign. "Trying to interest people With BT's ISDN, downloading from the Internet is up to four times quicker than with an ordinary phone line. Because ISDN is digital, calls connect almost instantaneously and graphics can be downloaded much faster. ISDN pricing options start at a surprisingly low £199°. For details, call BT Business connections on Freefone 0800 800 800 now.

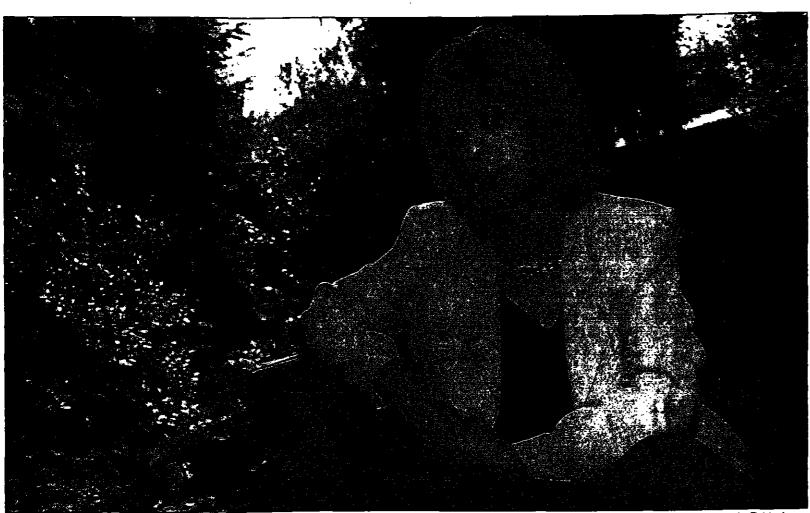
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Dejected Tory: Margaret Curtiss relaxing at home in Southampton yesterday after accusing John Major of betraying the country Photograph: Robin Jones

Major stands accused of complacency

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

John Major was publicly rebuked yesterday by a die-hard Tory activist who accused him of complacency and, ultimately, betrayal for leaving his party without the weapons to fight the election.

The onslaught - the more powerful because it came from someone clearly moved by her expectation of imminent defeat -was delivered on the final BBC Election Call by Margaret Curtiss, of Southampton, where the Conservatives expect to lose one marginal seat.

But Mr Major built on the

Tuesday; that the media was obing his appeal to the voters.

No stranger to controversy, Mrs Curtiss featured in a frontpage Sunday Mirror report about Southampton Tory sleaze in March. Yesterday, she cornered Mr Major with a grass-

roots view of her party's plight.
Accusing him of complacency, she said: "As far back as 1993, the party were well aware that the posts had changed, and yet we had minister after minister coming down to Southampton saying, Well, we have done it before, we can do it again'.

"You know yourself that to govern effectively, you need people not only at the top, but people on the ground floor.

"We have lost very, very many fine councillors over the years through this failure to get our message across, this utter complacency, and ultimately that means that it's a betrayal of the country, as we both know that only the Conservatives can really be truly trusted to govern the country.

"But we are going to lose tomorrow, John, because we have not got that message across, we have not woken up in time to the fact those goalposts have moved and the Labour Party have been a different animal, and that ultimately has to rest at your door."

Initially, Mr Major said he was not complacent, council seats would swing back to the Conservatives, he had delivered an economy in better shape than it had been for generations, and the general election was there to be won.

Mrs Curtiss said that while she shared his Conservative conviction, and she would be voting Conservative, fingers had not been pulled out and messages had not been delivered to the voters.

She told the Prime Minister. "You have plenty of eager soldiers on the ground floor here We have been begging for you to give us the weapons to fight. We have not had those

"We have been going on with one hand tied behind our "I will get one minute of it on the news, if I'm lucky, and that back ... The buck has to stop minute, probably, a bit that somewhere and that does stop at you and I'm very sorry we're going to lose tomorrow."

Mr Major said: "There is a problem in politics these days. However, whatever politicians may say, the message the politicians get is filtered through what happens to be the story of the day. I may speak at length about the details of education

structing his message and blockof the media and others, you hear very little about it.

"You hear about the squabble of the day, the disagreement of the day, the gaffe of the day, the speculation of the day, the poll of the day, but the details of how I propose to improve education, what I propose to do to the failing Labour education authorities in the next Parliament, how I propose to enshrine the welfare state, they can't encapsulate in a soundbite."

On Tuesday, Mr Major complained that his campaign had effectively been hijacked by the



How the Sunday Mirror featured Mrs Curtiss

sues like health and education - in spite of the fact that he had put it at the top of his own agenda in the middle of April.

Yesterday, Mr Major sug-gested that he was utterly unable to manipulate the news "I might make a 40-minute

speech this morning on the welfare state," he told the Election Call audience. "I will get one minute of it on

creates controversy between the parties. It'll be criticised by Tony Blair, who hasn't read it, and by Paddy Ashdown, who hasn't understood it.

"That is a real democratic problem and Margaret Curtiss put her finger on it. I'm not complaining about it. It's a rough life, politics, but that is the reality of how it is these days."

All's fairer for university applicants

Education Editor

People from working-class backgrounds, ethnic minorities and women all have a better chance of getting to university now than they did before the Conservatives took office, according to a pamphlet published vesterday. Universities are fairer and

more accessible than they were in 1979, Professor David Watson, director of Brighton University, and a member of the Dearing Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education, says. He points out that the pro-portion of university students in

the bottom three social classes

has risen from 23 per cent in 1986 to 28 per cent last year. The participation rate for those in the very bottom social class (E) has doubled since 1991 and that for social class D

is up from 12 to 17 per cent. Women now form just over half of all full-time home (as opposed to overseas) undergraduates compared with 41 per cent in 1979. For ethnic minorities, the participation rate has risen from 10.7 per cent in 1990 to 13

The figures are complicated by the fact that the polytechnics. which have traditionally taken more working-class and ethnic minority students than the old universities, were given university status six years ago.

Even if this is taken into account, Professor Watson says, the university system since the expansion triggered by Kenneth Baker, the former secretary of state for education, "is demon-

ticipants than the post-Robbins inheritance of 1979".

What is more, he argues, research shows that student achievement has remained as high as it was 18 years ago so the pool of talent is far from

But, although the Government willed the end, it failed to will the means, the pamphlet says. "The stark conclusion on the resourcing of this enlarged, more accessible and hence fairer system of higher education is that government has failed to meet its implied commitments

through public funding."
This year, the whole university sector is likely to go into fi-nancial deficit. Government spending on research and development has fallen sharply during the past decade, and the pay of university teachers is slipping further behind that of people in comparable professions.

Professor Watson said yesterday that the substantial investment needed for higher education would have to come from private as well as public sources.

It was vital, he said, for universities to continue to expand. "If we were to go back to a smaller and more selective system we would lose the social and economic gains we have made through expansion.

He pointed out that retrenchment worked against equal opportunities for all students. The proportion of working-class students went down between 1981 and 1984 when Sir Keith Joseph was squeezing university numbers.

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The voice of Redditch - how three mondes voters came to their decisions



STAYING WITH THE TORIES

Susan Lovett, 38, is a former sales consultant who now stays at home to look after two young children. She has been unhappy with the Conservatives but early in the campaign decided they would still win her

"At the start of the election I was dissatisfied with Tory arrogance but recognised their record on the management of the country and could not see an alternative. Labour still seemed to be the same party

but with a glossy finish - Tony Blair.
"At this general election, probably the most important one for decades, I think it's a great shame that the run-up so far has been dominated by smoke-screen elec-tioneering, sleaze and lies, when the public need to be far better informed, given the importance of the issues, especially Europe.

"Tony Blair has smiled and preened his way into public view but when pressured. waivers and panics, as highlighted by his refusal to appear on a live question-andanswer show on Talk Radio. Are these the actions we want from our leader?

Indeed, apart from the politicians who have forced their views on us, I feel the most important aspect of the election are the unheard views of the Labour militants who are sitting in the background, waiting. Is Tony Blair strong enough to control them? "I feel the campaign has turned into a Tony Blair campaign and not a Labour Par-



campaign has not been so slick and not so well stage-managed.

The splits within the Labour Party carefully into the next century, negotiating strongly on our behalf."



NOT VOTING

Andrew Davies, 19, is a pupil at Arrow Vale High School, a comprehensive in Redditch. He has decided not to vote.

"This will be the first election that I am entitled to vote in; but I am not going to. Not through apathy but through reasoned choice. I feel that I have been made into something of a 'leper' by people who have half-baked notions of what the parties offer and are voting merely because they can, rather than because they have understood what they are voting for. I am familiar with the argument that people have died so that have the right to vote.

"It would be foolish to claim that I'm not going to vote because politicians don't do

enough for 'young people'; rather, I am tak-

ing the idealistic and arrogant position that they don't deserve my vote. Too many ministers are caught out as moralising hypocrites and while I know that no one is perfect it is the smarm and pomposity that seems to surround politicians that annoy me so much.

"I have met all of my local candidates and Tony Blair visited our school. Nothing they said convinced me their party was any different to the others.

"Over the past six weeks we have been almost constantly assailed by one party or another claiming that the election will be decided on policies not personalities, and then within seconds, resort to backbiting and sniping. How is the country to prosper if we entrust it to spoilt children?

Mondeo Man reporting by Michael Streeter

mative.

SWITCHING TO **NEW LABOUR**

Craig Coates, 37, a local government worker, has always voted Conservative before and was a Thatcher supporter, but is switching to Labour.

"I was a Conservative voter because they were the best party for me and my family's personal circumstances. But now I think

the country needs a change.

I think the rot set in when Mrs Thatcher left in 1990, but I voted for John Major in 1992 because there was no way I could have

voted for Neil Kinnock. Tivny Blair is a big improvement on who

they've had before. "As for Paddy Ashdown, he's in the wrong party. If he had the backing of Labour it

would be perfect for me. "Not that I think Labour will necessarily be any better at running the country now

I just hope they will prove me wrong.
"The reason why I'm unhappy is that under the Conservatives the rich seem to be getting richer. They don't seem to care

about people in the middle like me. "Another thing is that I work all the hours and the wife works all the hours, and yet there are people who do no work and are able to sit in the pub all day.

"I think something should be done about it. I think the Conservatives used to do something but there are too many dogooders now.

"Law and order is one of the main issues for me, and I think older people are concerned about job security. "I'm not sure that Labour will be any bet-

"I think the election is now a one-horse

ter, but the point is there is no other choice

and I will vote to give them a chance. race. Anything has got to be better than what we have at the moment.

Forsyth warns Scots of leap into the abyss

Stephen Goodwin

Sounding like a man desperate at the prospect of losing both his Cabinet post and his parliamentary seat, Michael Forsyth yesterday warned Scots that home rule could rob their public services of up to £2.5bn.

Scotland stood on "the edge of a precipice", the Secretary of State for Scotland declared in the most apocalyptic contribution by any party on the final day of campaigning north of the border. A vote for anyone other than the Conservatives would be a "leap into the abyss". Living standards would fall, and health, housing and education services would suffer, he said. In an apparent breach of

convention, Mr Forsyth cited advice from officials within the Scottish Office who, he claimed, had told him the funding formula proposed by Labour and the Liberal Democrats for a devolved administration would cut £1bn to £1.5bn from Scotland's £14bn public expenditure grant. If the Treasury got its way, the cut could be £2.5bn, he

Normally civil servants are not dragged into the election battle. Mr Forsyth said he had been "reluctant" to reveal their advice, but as the Opposition had had the opportunity of discussions with officials he would be "amazed" if they had not raised the funding issue. "If they have not addressed it, they are not fit to be in government.

Mr Forsyth's deployment of civil servants' advice on the last day of the campaign is a reflection of his own desperate

Liberal Democrat

Have you always supported

I have for a while. There was a

time when I didn't vote at all,

as a kind of stupid protest. I'm sure the parties were all terri-

bly upset. But I do still find the

two-party system ludicrous. I

find party politics ludicrous,

really. I'd rather have inde-

pendents, but that's clearly not

about the Liberal Democrats is

their education policy; classes

of 30 up to the age of 11, for example. It really should be class-

es of 10 up to the age of 12, if

you're going to bite into the

downward spiral, but I think the

Liberal Democrat policies are

is education the most im-

portant issue in this election?

Yes. Absolutely, the most, If you

don't have an educated popu-

the hest.

going to happen this time. The most impressive thing



On the edge: An 0.3% swing would unseat Michael Forsyth

HOW I WILL VOTE: TOM CONTI

I'd rather have independents but

it's not going to happen this time

circumstances. Not only does print agreed by Labour and the the Tory party in Scotland face Lib Dems for home rule - the a hammering today, but his own seat of Stirling is one of the most vulnerable. Labour needs a swing of just 0.3 per cent to

According to the Constitutional Convention - the blue-

current formula for calculating Scotland's share of UK spending would continue. However, it also advocates further moves towards equalisation across the

UK, with resources distributed

"on the basis of relative need".

dren in turn. Education is not

just about reading and writing,

it's about how to get on to-

gether, and having respect for

one another, which seems to

a recruitment plan for doctors

and nurses, which I think is so

have any feelings for the

No. But then, I don't live in

Scotland and I haven't lived in

century, so I'm not going to

make pronouncements for what

Have there been any partic-

ularly important influences

Well, I've been through the

whole thing. I was severely left

in my twenties, but I started

being brought up as a Tory, a

I think they should do.

on your political views?

have gone completely now.

The Scottish National Party drove home its independence message at a gathering of about 80 supporters beneath the emp-

spending on health and local

government is one-third more

England. No objective needs as-

sessment had been carried out

since 1979 and in the meantime

Scotland had become one of the

Mr Forsyth's claims as last-gasp

scaremongering. "It bears no relation to any advice I have re-

ceived from the Scottish Office

on this point. A Labour chan-

cellor will guarantee Scotland its

fair share of Britain's resources side-by-side with home rule."

ty parliament building on Cal-ton Hill in Edinburgh.

Alex Salmond, the party leader, predicted the SNP would win "a barrow load of seats" today. In reality, seven or eight, compared to four MPs when the election was called, would be counted a success. Any kosses and Mr Salmond's job will

The Liberal Democrats, meanwhile, were clinging to the hope that they will become the second party in Scotland. Sir David Steel said a substantial group of Liberal Democrats in the next Parliament could provide a "more radical edge" to a Blair government.

A large number of voters felt the Tories and Labour were offering "something like a choice between Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola", Sir David said.

twenties, disinterest, really.

Which is still quite large ... but

you can't just stand by and

wait, really. You have to vote.

Are you looking forward to

ernment? Well ... how much

changes? Not a great deal. But

that's one good thing about the

parties at the moment. There's

Are there any politicians you

the other parties, of course.

That's part of the tragedy of the

party political system, isn't it?

If you could make up a cabinet

of people like Gordon Brown,

John Major, Kenneth Clarke, Paddy Ashdown, Charles

Kennedy, Menzies Campbell.

... these people are really good

admire in other parties?

Negative campaigning works tal, London, who conducted what the candidate was change. Excessive fear is coun-

Social Affairs Correspondent

Despite politicians' pleas for a good, clean fight it seems they may be wasting their time. Scientific studies suggest what the spin doctors say - negative campaigning is remembered better and seen as more infor-

per head in Scotland than in Given equal amounts of positive and negative information about a candidate, the overall impression of voters is skewed towards the negative, says a review of the data available in this most prosperous places in the month's Psychiatric Bulletin. George Robertson, the shad-

George Robertson, the shad-ow Scottish Secretary, dismissed istrar at the Maudsley Hospi-

the review, said that people have a generally positive view of others with the result that negative information is seen as more salient.

"If one expects the average person to be basically decent, honest and polite then if someone is presented as dishonest this would give a more marked impression," he said.

In one study a single negative sentence was enough to sway voters against a candidate, but different shortcomings were given different weight. People were presented with neutral information about two candidates which differed only in

accused of. *This single sentence was

enough to sway the voters against the candidate. Adultery was less negative than corruption. [And] it did not matter whether the accusation came from a partisan or independent source," he added.

Dr Beecroft said that he personally thought the Tories' "demon eyes" campaign had been the most effective image in the run-up to this election: "It was very clever. It reminded people of last time when it looked like Labour were going to win and they had a great story to tell. It then at the last minute long is a phenomenon that is very difstanding fears made people

terproductive.

"Although most people see negative campaigning for what it is and find it unethical, they still find it more informative.

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eginning,

But he warned that no politician could hope to win an election just by smearing their opponents. Emotions also played a larger part in how people voted than their beliefs about them. "If you look at past elections - Thatcher, Reagan there are great emotional factors involved, the fact that someone was a great leader or ficult to pin down."

Election Special



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The actor Tom Conti

lation, then greater amounts

need to be spent on the health

service, the police, on insurance

everything. It all comes from education. People don't un-

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tra on income tax, the cost of

living will come down for them.

People have children, they

ought to think about those

carroon in 1853 was one of the to the moment when a woman

children as adults, and their chil- middle-class Scot. Then after my

Also the Liberal Democrat 2 May? health policy is good; they have The first day of the new Gov-

You were born a Scot; do you not going to be a huge swing to

Scotland for a quarter of a Yes, there are good people in

Hong Kong

handover

Tung vows to permit protests

Pro-democracy groups welcome chief executive's nod towards tolerance, but remain sceptical

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive designate of the in-Hong government, has vowed that a Tiananmen Square-type massacre will not happen in the ter-ritory because "I will not allow

to happen."

He said that in Hong Kong "we permit, sometimes we even encourage, demonstrations" and added that "demonstrations are sent of our culture." are part of our culture."

Mr Tung was speaking in an interview with America's ABC television station. His remarks were immediately welcomed in Hong Kong by leaders of the colony's pro-democracy parties and organisations yesterday but they questioned why he was telling an American audience that the right to demonstrate that the right to demonstrate was guaranteed while at the same time preparing legislation which will curtail the rights of assembly, especially at short поцісе.

Cheung Man-kwong, a legislator and leader of the alliance supporting China's democracy movement, said he would feel more convinced by Mr Tung's remarks if he was not preparing laws which outlawed



demonstrations violating "national security". Mr Cheung's organisation has been branded as "subversive" by China and subversive by China and subversiv would therefore be unable to nese laws would not apply. curtailing the right to demon-function if Chinese criteria Nevertheless it was revealed yes-

terday that the first legislative act of the China-appointed Provisional Legislature for Hong Kong would be to pass a law

rights which have come into law in recent years. In a characteristically oblique

criticism of Mr Tung, Governor Chris Patten said yesterday that while he had no reason to doubt his successor was sincere, he failed to understand how guarantees of the right to demonstrate given by an individual could overrule new legislation aimed at curtailing the right to demonstrate.

Martin Lee, the leader of the Democratic Party, also ques-tioned whether Mr Tung had the power to prevent a Tiananmen Square-type massacre in Hong Kong. He said that "if the troops are ordered by their officers to shoot", they would do so and the Chief Executive would be powerless to stop

Invited to express criticism of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Mr Tung declined to give a direct response. He described it as "an event nobody wanted to see happen". Adding, "I think history should be the to Canada.

judge of this particular event. But one thing, in looking back, you can say is this: that in the eight years since. China's progress in the economic front has been enormous and that was possible because of the stability, the social stability that now prevails all across the nation."

Mr Tung is said to be increasingly dismayed about the negative image of his incoming administration in the United States. However he appears, yet again, to have reinforced the view that all his public utterances mirror remarks by Chinese officials.

Mr Tung is now using the exact terminology employed by Chinese officials - in both Chinese and English - even including the remark that Mr Lee and his associates will be disappointed if they want to become martyrs. This remark was made on a number of occasions by Lu Ping, the most senior Chinese official in charge of Chinese affairs, during a recent visit





Rank and file: A Chinese guard of honour destined for Hong Kong shows off the new uniforms Photograph: Reuter

Chinese military march with style

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Gone are the plain egalitarian olive-green suits of the Maoist era, with four pockets for officers and two for other ranks. Gone, too, is the 1988 redesign,

which introduced rank insignia.

As seen in these photographs, the Chinese Armed Forces have been showing off new uniforms designed to pre-sent a friendlier image in the run-up to the handover of Hong Kong next month. The photographs were taken in Peking. But, for the moment, the new uniforms are likely to be restricted to those in high-profile jobs in Hong Kong or abroad.

"If we are going to change ali the uniforms it's going to be a very big job for us", a Chinese military spokesman said. At the last count, there were more than 2 million in the Chinese forces.

The new outlits, with Russian-style shoulder hoards indicating rank, are designed to make Chinese soldiers, sailors and airmen and women casier

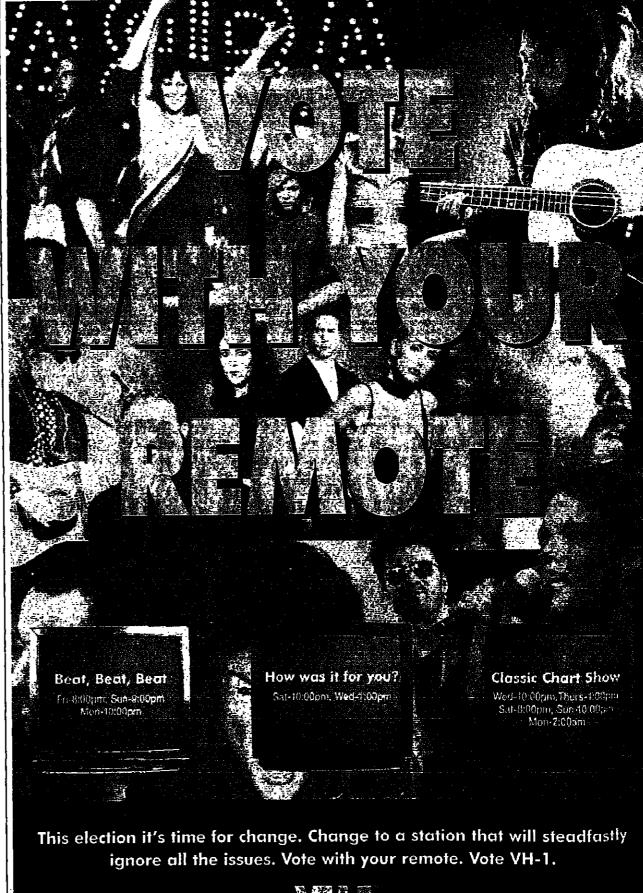
to equate with those of other countries.

The army has chosen a shade closer to the British khaki than the olive-green of the past; the air force, blue; and the navy is wearing white, in common with the summer uniforms of other navies around the world. The officers leading the parade in the photograph are zhongwei lieutenants - one vertical stripe and two stars. The commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army contingent which arrived in Hong Kong last week, Major-General Zhou Borong. wears all-gold shoulder straps with a single star.

The imitorus owe a lot to the

influence of Russia and the Soviet union. The idea of silver or gold braid on the shoulders started in the Crimean war. when Russian officers removed it from their cuffs because it was too conspicuous to Turkish, French and British snipers.

So that officers could still be distinguished by their own men. they sewed the braid on to their shoulder straps instead.



MUSIC THAT MEANS SOMETHING

معكدًا من المرحل

Available on cable and satellite

Becalmed on the Sahara's ocean of heat: The refugees dreaming of a homeland

اصكنا من الاعل Forgotten: Hama Nighiha, widow of a Polisario soldier and remarried to Mohamed, with some of her family, including her mother, Sirka

Milaya Awsserd camp, puth-west Algeria

HE INDEPENDENT

Photograph: Reviews

Libis porticular sear

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Table Tatti ned ite

halifa Ben Bashir, 77 years old ind almost toothless, greeted ne at the door of his grey concrete shack beneath the white desert sun. A veteran of the Spanish army of the Sahara, he now lives with 140,000 other Saharawi refugees amid an ocean of heat, waiting – along with his four wives and seven sons - for his return to an independent Arab Democratic Saharan Re-

public that does not exist. "We must have children to make up for the thousands we lost in exile," he said, introducing me to his first wife, 41year-old Fatima. The sand hissed into our faces and Khalifa smiled his broad toothless grin at me - toothless because the faeces-contaminated drinking water rots the teeth and gums of all the refugees by middle age.

The sand creeps through the camp in waves, great windswept seas of grit and dust that creep

← They feel violated when Western people come into their tents to monitor their food 9

past the tents and stone huts, moving in front of our eyes, physically passing us—covering our feet, ankle deep—as we talk in the immensity of colourless light or the profound darkness of near-windowless rooms. Hama Nighiha, beneath a roof of corrugated iron, was married to Nami, a Polisario soldier who was killed in 1980.

Living only 200 metres from Khalifa, she has four children by her "martyr" and another four by Mohamed, her second husband. "I met Mohamed in ing a figure of 2,500. These the normal way," she says gen-"You know we have nothing here - no discos, no entertainment, no nothing. So we drink tea and visit each other's huts and Mohamed came one day and we talked and met again and then he said: 'I want to marry you', and asked

my mother's permission." Sirka, Hama's mother, is only

65 but looks as if she is ap- no one knows if the contamiproaching 80, a thin woman in black with beautiful eyes and skin as wrinkled as the sand dunes outside their home. "Many have died in this war so men must be re-born," she says quietly. "The Moroccans are very, very many - the Saharawi people are not. So we must have children.

She has a point. Perhaps 35 million people live in Morocco: the Saharawi population - both in the fetid Algerian camps and in the Western Sahara under Moroccan occupation number scarcely 200,000. No wonder the United Nations' efforts to arrange a referendum on the future of the Western Sahara collapsed under the weight of identification procedures. Should one include all those who once lived in the region, ac-cepting the Polisario's figure for the camp population of 170,000? Or the Moroccans trucked into Lazyoune and the other towns of the Western Sahara to take the place of those who fled to Algeria on the Polisario's orders 22 years ago? Given the filth in which most

of the Saharawis live, their battle for re-birth - in the most literal sense of the word - is an all-consuming one. Daniel Mora-Castro, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' senior water development expert in Tindouf, understands what their struggle means in human terms. He treats their tragedy in scientific terms. There are very high levels of organic pollution in the drinking water," he says. "There are no latrines in the camps. Water holes are open when the sirocco comes and the wind blows faeces and sand into the water.

Mr Mora-Castro's story builds to a fearful climax that comes quite unexpectedly. "We have a system of measuring the E. colibacteriological indicator," he goes on. "If it's 0-1 in water it's ootable; if it's 1-5, action should be taken. Five to 50 means it needs urgent action. Over 50 per 100 millilitres of water needs drastic action. But we are find-

people are drinking shit soup."
Sulphates in the water act as a laxative. High levels of fluorine mean that 90 per cent of the Saharawis have missing teeth. Iodine in the water has affected thyroid glands; 10 per cent of the population have goitres. Newly-born children have poor respiration - they call it the "blue children's disease" - and

nation has affected the aquifers as well as the wells. Given 185 water hand-pumps in 1983, the Polisario failed to maintain them. Only two still work; there

one has thought to cannibalise

them for spare parts.
The Saharawi may demand independence - and hope that UN envoy James Baker can provide it for them - but they are is a cemetery for the rest - no

tensely private people, they now watch aid workers inspecting their homes, deciding how much food they may be allotted. "They feel embarrassed and controlled by the non-governmental or-

er says. "These people feel violated when Western people come into their tents to monitor their food. They had rights and now they are being treated like vulgar refugees. People say they prefer to die of hunger

rather than have their intimacy violated in this way."

Hama Nighiha has eaten no

meat in years. All her children have rotten teeth. But she rejects the idea of defeat. "We are

says. "We still have part of our land - the liberated area [east of the Moroccan sand wall). This is Algeria and it is not our land - that is why we build no mosques here. We can pray

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Mobutu agrees to talks with rebel leader

The United States envoy Bill Richardson said yesterday that Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko and the rebel leader Laurent Kabila would meet tomorrow on a South African navy vessel. Earlier Mr Kabila appealed to the international community to force Mr Mobutu to attend

talks at sea to avoid a battle for Kinshasa.

Mr Kabila, head of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), said: "Only talks will avoid a battle for Kinshasa. But if Mobutu cannot come to talks then it is business as usual for us. It means we will have to take Kinshasa." Routers - Lubumbashi

Albania blast kills 22

A weapons depot exploded yesterday in Burrel, 20 miles north-east of the Albanian capital Tirana, killing at least 22 people, police said. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known. Munitions at the depot were stored in underground tunnels. Police said most of the dead were inside the tunnel when it exploded.

AP - Tirana

Texan breakaways held

Seven men were detained by police who said they were planning on joining 13 Texas secessionists holed up near Rort Davis. Members of the Republic of Texas group, which claims Texas was illegally annexed to the US in the 19th century, have been in a standoff with police since AP - Fort Davis, Texas

Crash jet 'off flight path'

The Kazakh jetliner that collided with a Saudi Boeing 747.
Giver India last November, killing all 349 people aboard
both planes, had descended from its scheduled flight path, the Saudi airline claimed yesterday. The Kazakhstan Airlines Ilyushin-76 descended to an altitude of 14,000ft, about 1,000ft below what New Delhi's air traffic Sabout 1,000tt below what I tower told a judge controllers had ordered, a lawyer told a judge AP - New Dethi estigating the crash.

cartoon in 1853 was one of the to the

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oring.

Italy's men of violence throw off the state's chains

Andrew Gumbel Palermo

It was the defining moment of the Cold War in Italy, the moment when the Christian Democrat establishment made its unholy alliance with the world of organised crime and sealed it with blood. Fifty years ago today, a crowd of peasants celebrating May Day in the rugged hills of the Palermo hinterland were mown down by machinegunners determined to deter them once and for all from vot-

ing for the Communists. The massacre at Portella della Ginestra, coming just a few days after an unexpected victory for the left in Sicily's first ever regional elections, claimed 11 dead and 55 wounded. It was a remarkably low casualty toll given the narrowness of the pass where they were gathered and the appalling wounds inflicted by bullets ricocheting off the

The new MAFIA

shocked the Sicilian peasantry back into the arms of the establishment, an establishment in which the interests of the big landowners, the Christian Democrats, the Church and the Mafia all converged with the full approval and even encouragement of the US government.

The exact chain of responsibility for the massacre has never been established, although it almost certainly won the tacit approval of all the big powerbrokers and attracted no more than a murmur of disquiet from the Christian Democrats' notoriously repressive Interior Minister Mario Scelba. The



man who organised the attack, the charismatic bandit Salvatore Giuliano, was no more than a tool of the larger forces but he nevertheless enjoyed their protection for a long time after-

The first step to democracy is a ramp.

While ceaseless attempts were theoretically being made to capture Giuliano, he was in fact holding court to a neverending stream of journalists and admirers at his home town

from Portella della Ginestra. The only people unable to find Giuliano were the police," a court sentence concluded years later, by which time Giuliano had been betrayed and killed,

much of its power to shock pub-

lic opinion.

The Mafia thus re-established itself as a bulwark against Communism. It remained on intimate, if occasionally ambiva-lent, terms with the Christian Democrats throughout the Cold War as Italy's political system became increasingly bogged down and Cosa Nostra built up a vast international empire in drugs smuggling and other rackets.

Some of the lessons of Portel-la della Ginestra are still valid today, notably that the fortimes of any mafia crime or-ganisation - whether in Sicily. Calabria, Naples, northern Italy or elsewhere – depend largely on the complicity, or at least the weakness, of the state structure with which it must compete for

control of territory.

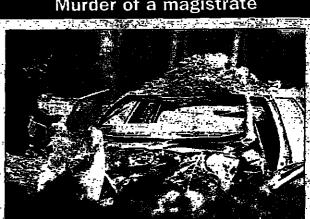
Of course, the big change has been the end of the Cold War. In Italy's case it occurred not so much in 1989 as in 1992, when the Christian Democrat-led order collapsed under an intolerable burden of corruption scandals and the Mafia, taking advantage of the political chaos, establishment. It was in 1992 that Giovanni Falcone, the magistrate who did more than anyone before or since to penetrate the secrets of Cosa Nostra and dismantle its leadership, was blown up along with his wife and police escort on the way into Palermo from the airport. Within two months. Falcone's closest colleague Paolo Borsellino was also eliminated in a massive car bomb that exploded outside his house.

The result of these murders, the most shocking of a long string of so-called cadaveri eccellenti or "illustrious corpses", was to galvanise popular opinion, the politicians, the police, the magistrature and horrified members of Cosa Nostra itself into an unprecedented counterattack on the Mafia. Over the next three years, with the help of new legislation and a witness protection programme, hundreds of new informers came forward and one high-profile arrest after another was made. particularly in the upper echelons of the Corleonesi, the clan that ran Cosa Nostra in the 1980s and early 90s and was resoonsible for its strategy of terror against the state.

Trials for the murders of Falcone and Borsellino were put together in record time, based on the kind of detailed evidence of which most prosecutors can usually only dream.

Meanwhile, all sorts of dirty linen started coming out. It led, most spectacularly, to the arrest and trial of Giulio Andreotti, the grand old man of the Christian Democrat party, on charges of mafia collusion and murder. But there were also precious new insights into such mysteries as the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader, in 1978 and the death of Roberto Calvi, the banker with connections in both the Mafia and the Vatican, in London in 1982.

Then something happened. Part of it was no doubt a loss of momentum – these things have always gone in waves - but mostly it was due to an attempted political counter-revolution bent on rolling back the extraordinary achievements of the judges. When Silvio Berlusconi, a man himself under investigation for gross malpractice and parliament, and also the juin his media empire, became prime minister in 1994, he all but stopped the magistrates dead in their tracks and the work of the parliamentary anti-Mafia commission ground to a near standstill,



End of a gangbuster. The wreck of Falcone's car after a bomb killed him, his wife and three bodyguards in 1992

Falcone's brief promise of hope

Giovanni Falcone was not only the most effective magistrate ever to take on the Mafia, he virtually invented to burrow into the organisa-

tion's secret world... Tommaso Buscetta, to break the organisation's fabled huge trials of the mid-1980s, in which hundreds of mailiosi stared out of cages at the back of the specially-built countroom in Palermo as life sentence after life sentence was passed upon them:

And it was Falcone, along with his distinguished col-league Paolo Borsellino, who came to understand the mentality of the mailoso and laid bare the structure of the

Falcone: Broke the Mafia's code of silence

organisation - its strange codes and initiation rites, its

values and its strategies. In a place like Sicily, where thority and mafia infiltration are never clear, the work of It was Falcone who first in- a magistrate is about far duced a senior matioso. more than a simple upholding of the law. After his initial successes. Falcone had code of silence. It was Falt to spend much of his time cone who masterminded the protecting himself from polson within the system including the Palermo prosecutors' office itself.

By 1992, he had been forced to leave Palermo and took up the job of nationwide. super-prosecutor 5 On 23 May that year, he was on his way from Palermo airport into the city when an enormous explosion tore open the road. surface, claiming not only his life but that of his wife and three bodyguards. He was,

Falcone's achievement remains unique. Nothing like the same body of knowledge. has ever emanated from other Mafia regions such as Calabria or Naples. There are now more than 1,000 informers spilling out details of Cosa Nostra's activities and murky links with the estab-lishment. It remains to be seen how much longer with out Falcone, they will keep. talking -

Andrew Gumbel

Mr Berlusconi's downfall at Mafia magistrates' good work le end of 1994 was followed by Instead of helping the magisthe end of 1994 was followed by a year and half of political stagnation, and then the arrival of the present centre-left government led by Romano Prodi. Despite the presence of several prominent anti-Mafia campaigners in the ruling coalition, however, yet more ground is being lost. Why?

Partly it is because of the

weakness of the Prodi government, which relies on a fringe left-wing party to make up its majority in parliament and has concentrated its limited strength on getting Italy into the single currency. Partly it is because of a calculated risk taken in the name of lasting constitutional reform. An extraordinary cross-party commission is currently examining changes to the electoral system. the balance of power between the president, the government

dicial system. The problem is that in order to get Mr Berlusconi to agree to a decent electoral system, he is being effectively bought off with judicial reforms that risk unravelling much of the anti-

trates by bolstering their presence in crime-ridden cities like Reggio Calabria and increasing the efficiency of the appallingly slow Italian court system, the emphasis is all on reining in the judges and subjecting them to greater legislative and political control

The Mafia is taking full advantage of the signals emanating from Rome, and Sicily in particular has slumped back into a state of despondency. The positive results of the mid-1990s are still being felt, notably in Calabria where a slew of recent arrests has weakened some of the most powerful groups operating their world-wide rackets from there.

But the risk, as the magistrates closest to the coal face can attest, is that life is going to get a lot worse again very quickly.
"The Mafia is beginning to build up resistance to the tools we have devised to combat its influence," said the Hermo prosecutor Antonio ligroia. "If we do not update our weapons then the next found will be lost.

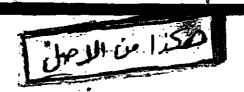
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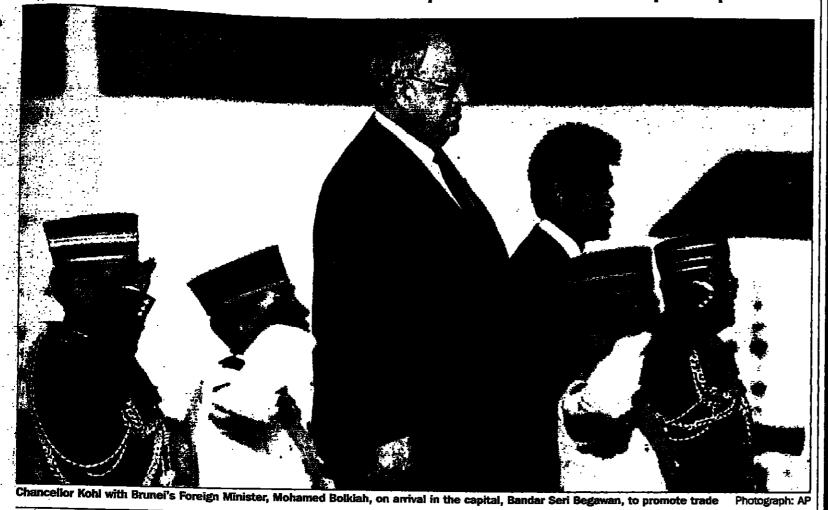
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Warships and planes hunt Antarctic fish raiders

brief

of hope

Wellington - France and Britain have sent warships to the Antarctic, and New Zealand is sending surveillance planes aloft to stop an international fleet of ships poaching the prized toothfish.

Strict controls were imposed on Antarctic fish resources last year under a 23-nation Antarctic fisheries control agreement. known as the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

But "reflagged" fishing ves-sels from Spain, Norway and even the United States - all cosigners to the agreement – are among those plundering toothfish, according to New Zealand

40 vessels have taken over 30,000 tonnes of toothfish in South Africa's sub-Antarctic waters, Simon Upton, New Zealand's associate Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, said

yesterday.
"Toothfish has a very high val-ue in Southeast Asia. In Japan. it is almost worth bars of gold," said Commandant Bernard O'Mahony, spokesman for France's Marine Nationale. O'Mahony confirmed French forces had intercepted two fishing vessels in the protected zone around its sub-Antarctic

On 31 March, the Singaporean ship Belgie III was apprehended carrying toothfish. On April 19, the Portuguese

"Since mid-March, the French government insisted on reinforcing the presence of the Marine Nationale in this area in

Jean-Claude Nola, a spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry, said a frigate and two towboats had been sent to the area. South Africa is reported ready to send warships and maritime surveillance airplanes to try to halt the illegal fishing. Poachers are raiding toothfish

order to protect it," he said.

areas around France and Australia's sub-Antarctic Heard and McDonald Islands. Britain has already used gunboats to chase out Spanish and Norwegian fishing boats around its South Georgia islands in the

edly fly Chilean and Argentine

flags of convenience."

Not much is known of the fish, first named five years ago the "Patagonian toothfish." It is a long fish with a large mouth and is believed to be bottomdwelling, living off cod. It lives for up to 25 years.

Spanish and Norwegian boats are also deliberately breaching the agreements made by their governments, using Panamanian and Vanuatuan flags to disguise themselves. New Zealand officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. US and Japanese vessels were also reported to be

involved, they said. New Zealand's sub-Antarctic island waters and Ross Sea De-

pendency are seen as a new area for potential plunder. Upton said a New Zealand Air Force surveillance plane had already made one trip to the Antarctic and it would be returning reg-ularly. He said the illegal fishing threatened the fragile

"It may pose a threat to the waters south of New Zealand, if reports that this fishing is continuing to spread westwards into French and Australian Antarctic waters, are borne out," he said.

Any military protection of the region is handicapped by the vast distances involved and influenced by the role of the gateway countries, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Argentina and South Africa.

Nameless angel helps Dakota rise above the floods

David Usborne New York

There is nothing like a flood to bring out the American community spirit. We saw it in 1993 when the Mississippi drowned swathes of the Midwest and we vitnessed it again this month as the Red River ran riot in North Dakota - legions of citizens pitching in to save homes and neighbourhoods.

The generosity of one woman will surely be hard to beat, however. Without reveal-ing her identity, she has pledged \$2,000 (£1,250) of her own money to every household hit by flooding this month in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and neighbouring East Grand Porks

in Minnesota.
Officials said that a sum of \$2m had been transferred into a city account by Tuesday and distribution to the worst-hit households had already begun. With at least 5,000 homes likely to qualify, the total cost to the mystery angel could be between

\$10m and \$15m. "God has answered our prayers," Grand Forks Mayor Pat Owens said of the gift. "He has sent a person as an anonymous donor who cares about each and every one of us in this region and wants to help you without any repayment. It is a ray of hope

so we can build our future." The benefactor, who is said to have no personal links to North Dakota, was presumably moved by the images beamed from Grand Forks 10 days ago when the cresting waters forced the evacuation of its entire population and part of its centre was gutted by a fire no one could put out.

While the worst is over, 50,000 people in the city remained homeless yesterday. In the meantime, the crest of the flooding Red River has travelled north into Manitoba, Canada, causing the evacuation of 8,000 people from their homes in Winnipeg on Tuesday. Manitoba is braced for its worst floods since 1852.

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cartoon in 1853 was one of the to the moment when a woo

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PCs • NOTEBOOKS • SERVERS

In February 1979. Chinese dissidents circulated an unofficial journal including an article calling for the newly rehabilitated ex-mayor of Peking, Peng Zhen, to be given work in the legal field. The article called him upright and outspoken, a dauntless man who would do nothing against his conscience.

At the time of his death, however, he was remembered more by Peking liberals as a die-hard conservative who helped China rebuild its legal system after the chaos of the Cultural Revolution, but who saw the law as a tool of dictatorship rather than of democracy.

Peng was once one of the most powerful men in China, upped by some observers as a potential successor to Chairman Mao. Yet, although he remained an influential figure long after his retirement in the late 1980s, his death will probably have little impact on the balance of power. Its main sig-nificance is that China is now even closer to the day when its leaders will no longer feel obliged to heed the wishes of veterans like Peng who were key figures back in the Communist

Party's infancy. Peng was born in a rural area of northern Shanxi Province in 1902, nine years before the collapse of China's last imperial dynasty. He joined the Communist Party at the age of 21, two years after its founding. China was then in ferment. Young people like Peng were growing disillusioned with the weakness and corruption of the new government. Despite his peasant origins. Peng's early career in the party was de-



both moved to Yale) and three

who stayed the course till they

retired in the 1990s; Bill White-

head, Bill Righter and myself.

hadn't expected or weren't pre-

pared to teach. Righter's in-

terests, in some ways so wide,

were in others highly selective

- not for him the broad-brush

epic and medieval foundation

courses - and he contrived,

with his disarming and civilised

charm, to carve for himself

early on a highly successful ca-

reer in those areas where liter-

ature and philosophy meet, and

in which he was to become an

first and influential book, Log-

ic and Criticism (1963), before

joining the staff. As the link-man

between the two departments of

English and philosophy he

taught courses involving both

disciplines to carefully selected

and highly responsive students,

In other ways, too. Righter

many of whom became stars.

stood out among the five of us:

not because he was an American (so was Bill Whitehead) but

because he had Europeanised

himself in the most delightful-

ly Jamesian and cosmopolitan

way. He chose to live in London,

commuting weekly to Warwick.

He had, indeed, published his

acknowledged authority.

Those were pioneering days.

voted to urban areas. He led anti-government protests among workers and students in several cities of northern China until his arrest in 1929.

During his six years in jail,

Peng - according to official accounts - remained devoted to the party cause. He organised several hunger strikes and even set up a party branch while be-hind bars. Such experiences, however, appeared not to inspire any sympathy in his later life for student and worker activists imprisoned for their involvement in anti-government unrest in the 1970s and 1980s.

After his release, Peng secured high positions in the underground party. When the Japanese invaded China in 1937. Peng took a leading role in planning guerrilla resistance in the north. Four years later, he joined Mao Tse-tung and the party's other top leaders at their hideout in the caves of Yanan. One of his main jobs was to supervise the indoctrination of aspiring party cadres in "Mao Tse-tung Thought". Shortly before the Japanese surrender in 1945, Peng was promoted to the Politburo.

Peng's importance in the party leadership was evident in his appointment appointment as Peking's first Communist Party chief after the city's "liberation" from nationalist forces in 1949. Two years later, he was given the mayorship as well.

The reason why dissidents in the late 1970s saw Peng as the potential saviour of the country's shattered legal system was because of his extensive work in that area in the early years of Communist rule, including the drafting of the country's first criminal code, which was eventually adopted in 1979. Ironically, however. Peng showed little inclination to tolerate outspoken criticism of the party. He is believed to have been sceptical about Mao's brief toleration of open debate in 1957, and played an important role in the purge of intellectuals that

Peng's relationship with Mao must have soured after the disastrous Great Leap Forward, which led to the death by starvation of millions of people in the early 1960s. Peng sided

William Righter

programmes in areas where he

was specially qualified. He was

an expert in French literature,

and throughout his years at

Warwick he regularly taught

comparative literature, setting

side by side, for critical analy-

sis, pairs of poems chosen from

the two languages, a technique

virtually invented at Warwick.

It was in small groups, rather

than in the larger lecture, that

Kansas City in 1927. He was ed-

ucated at Harvard and at Oxford

University. He then returned to

the United States where he

taught for some years at Cornell

University. In 1960 he began to

William Righter was born in

his talents best shone.

When the English Department Consequently he was not always

We all had to teach things we courses in French and English

with Deng Xiaoping in blaming Mao for the famine, a move that almost certainly led to Mao's decision to purge him at the out-set of the Cultural Revolution in 1966. Peng Zhen was the first top-ranking victim of the upheaval. Deng and other critics of Mao's policies followed.

Peng spent the Cultural Revolution in the countryside, living among peasants, chopping his own firewood and drawing his own water. As with other victims of Mao's excesses, his misfortunes boosted his popular standing enormously. Hundreds of friends and admirers turned out to greet him at Peking airport in 1978, two years after Mao's death, when he was al-

lowed to return from his exile. The wishes of the dissident author that Peng return to legal work were quickly realised. From 1979, he played a major role in establishing a legal system and promulgating a new Constitution that reflected the more reform-oriented policies of China's new strongman, Deng Xiaoping. In 1983, he was made head of the country's rubber stamp parliament, the National People's Congress. He retired in 1988.

In 1989, Peng displayed his true instincts by firmly sup-porting the decision to unleash the Chinese army on unarmed demonstrators in Peking. He expressed fears that, if the unrest was allowed to continue, China would be plunged into a new Cultural Revolution-style upheaval. He said that promoting bourgeois liberalisation" - as the party describes Western political views - was

unconstitutional. Despite his advanced years and lack of any formal title, Peng remained a significant force in politics at least until the early 1990s. He remained worried about the impact of "bourgeois liberal" thinking in China, but according to his official biography "highly appraised" Deng's decision to speed up the pace of economic reform in early 1992.

James Miles

Peng Zhen, politician: born Quwo County, Shanxi Province. China 12 October 1902; married (four sons. one daughter); died Peking 26 April 1997.

noisseur of the museums and art

galleries of Europe. His other

books were Myth and Literature

(1975), which enjoyed some-

thing of a vogue and became

highly influential, and The Myth

of Theory (1994), in which he

scrutinised with learning and

scepticism some of the current

Righter retired from the uni-

versity in 1993. His retirement

party was an agreeable occasion:

throwaway speech, in which he

looked back with fond nostalgia

on those early days when some

of our new, younger colleagues

had not even been born. He con-

tinued to keep in touch with the

university and to contribute to

conferences and seminars up till

last summer. He leaves a wid-

ow, Rosemary, who is chief

William Harvey Righter, English

scholar: born Kansas City 31 Au-

gust 1927: Reader in English and

Comparative Literature, Warwick

University 1965-93; married three

K. W. Gransden

leader writer on the Times.

recall a characteristically

fashions in literary theory.

Margery Manners

Principal boy: Manners as Prince Valiant in Red Riding Hood at the Albambra, Bradford, 1948

If Sophie Tucker was dubbed The Last of the Red Hot Mammas", then surely Margery Manners should have been called "The Last of the Cool Curvaceous Chorusers". She strode the stages of the last British variety theatres belting out the song hits of yesteryear as if she still lived in the days when it was a long way to Tip-perary. Never top of the bill lecture at King's College, Camat Warwick University opened to be found at some of our more bridge, where he remained unfor business in 1965, there were tedious meetings. He was con- til his appointment to Warwick. even in her heyday, she was nevertheless much loved by those five founder members: George spicuously his own man and was His second book was The Hunter and C.J. Rawson (who virtually able to create his own Rhetorical Hero (1964), a study His second book was The who belong to such groups as of André Malraux which the British Music Hall Society brought together his underfor whom she sang until quite recently, and by the comedian standing of French literature and of Malraux' work in philosophy Roy Hudd, a variety aficionado. and art criticism. Righter himwho booked her for many of his self was something of a con-

nostalgic recreations. Manners was born in Coventry in 1926, and, like many of the music-hall stars she came to emulate, began appearing in public as a child, aged eight, singing popular songs of the day in the working men's clubs of Birmingham. Four years later the 12year-old turned professional and joined that popular show band of the Thirties, Billy Merrin and his Commanders, for their seaside summer season at Ramsgate. Returning home she became a solo artiste for the first time, singing in cine-variety on

mas, beginning in Birmingham. She had yet to find her forte as a chorus singer in the traditional style, something which would come with the Second World War. Meanwhile, at the age of 14, she turned cowgirl crooner and joined the famous radio series then touring the halls, Big Bill Campbell and his Rocky Mountain Rhythm.

a tour of the Paramount cine-

As the war deepened, the silver-haired ranch boss from Canada and his hill-billy band enlisted in Ensa. His large show times; died London 14 April 1997. was divided into two units, and

toured service stations everywhere from Orkney to Iceland. Manners sang aboard every kind of naval vessel, from the decks of battleships to aircraft carriers, before illness through overwork caused her to return to civilian life after serving 15 months hard singing. She was thrilled to receive a letter of commendation for services rendered, signed by the twin heads of Ensa, the producer Basil Dean and the actor Sir Seymour

Hicks.

Manners turned to radio broadcasting and, with her experience of getting sailors to sing along with her choruses, became a great hit with the factory audiences of the lunchtime BBC series Workers' Playtime. More and more she incorporated vesterday's favourites into her act, and soon rivalled that other queen of the chorus songs, Bertha Wilmot. But there was plenty of room for both in those bombed and blacked-out days when a singsong in the shelter was just the thing to drown the sound of

the blitz. Her links with the music hall grew even stronger when she became almost a fixture on the BBC's old-time music-hall series, Palace of Varieties. What listeners did not suspect, however, was revealed when they saw Manners on stage: she played both the guitar and the accordion.

Christmas pantomimes could hardly pass such a singer by. and from the age of 16 she became a regular principal boy, starting with a splendidly thighslapping Prince Charming in the production of Cinderella that toured the Stoll and Moss circuit. From 1946 she joined the annual pantomime productions presented by Francis Laidler. In the Fifties the link between Manners and music hall was finally forged to perfection: she played none other than the mistress of chorus singing herself. Florrie Forde, in a television production called The Passing Show. Later she appeared frequently on The Good Old Days, televised from the City Varieties Theatre in Leeds.

Despite never attaining true top-of-the-bill status, Margery Manners was always popular with audiences both at home and abroad, and from the Sixties to the Seventies she starred in the theatres of South Africa with great success. In 1968 she appeared in her only film, Mrs Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter. While Herman's Hermits sang the latest hits of the day, Manners sang "My Old Man's a Dustman"

From 1969 she toured the last

remaining variety theatres in a nostalgic bill called The Golden Years of Music Hall. She sang her chorus songs between such veterans as Bob and Alf Pearson ("My Brother And I"), Nat ("Rubberneck") Jackley, and Sandy ("Can You Hear Me Mother") Powell. In 1975 Roy Hudd brought her out of retirement to star in a special Sunday-night show at the London Palladium, and 14 years later she sang once more for Hudd in the special video show On Stage Please, recorded at the Hackney Empire, in east London. For the last time she strode the stage as Florrie Forde singing her famous "Flanagan, Take Me to the Isle of Man

the chorus. Denis Gifford

Margery Manners, singer and dancer: born Coventry 18 March 1926; married; died London 27

Again" - and they all joined in

Gabriel Figueroa

When the Mexican film La Per-la ("The Pearl") opened in New York in 1948, the critic of Cue magazine was moved to describe the film as "so beautiful in its imagery, so enthralling in the poetry and thythm of its marvellously composed scores, that it sets a new high standard for all motion picture photography. The photographer in question, described by the critic as "one of the world's great photographers", was Gabriel Figueroa, a brilliant craftsman who, with *The Pearl's* director Emilio Fernandez, is generally considered responsible for establishing Mexican films as a leading force in world cinema.

The winner of many in-ternational awards (including two consecutive awards for Best Photography at the Cannes Festival), Figueroa was a master of eloquent shadows, dazzling cloud photography and stark contrast between shade and light, and he made dramatic use of Mexico's vivid scenery and tropical radiance. Luis Bunuel, John Ford and John Huston were other notable directors with whom he collaborated.

Born in Mexico City in 1907, Figueroa was orphaned when young and had to seek work, but managed to pursue his interest in painting and photography, studying with Eduardo Guerrero. In 1932 he became a stills photographer, and then a camera assistant to Alex Phillips, a Canadian cinematographer who had become an important part of the Mexican film industry. In 1935 Figueroa went to the United States to study as an assistant to Gregg Toland, one of Hollywood's most creative cinematographers and a master of deep focus. Return-ing to Mexico the following year, Figueroa made his début as director of photography on Alla en el Rancho Grande (1936).

His association with Emilio Fernandez started in 1943 with Flor Sylvestre and their second film together, Maria Candelaria (1943), won the Grand Prize at Cannes in 1946 and for Figueroa an award for photographic excellence. He won the same award the following year for Fernandez' Enamorada (1946), which was followed by La Perla (1946), based on John Steinbeck's story of a poor Mexican diver who finds an enormous pearl that brings tragedy instead of wealth and

The diver was played by Pedro Armendariz, who played the lead in many of the team's films. Though the film won the Grand Prize at San Sebastian, the script and direction were



Figueroa: eloquent shadows

generally considered inferior to the majestic photography, which was compared to early Flaherty.

Fernandez acted as associate

producer on John Ford's The Fuguire (1947), filmed in Mexico and based on a Graham Greene story about a priest on the run in a police state. Though unpopular with both critics and public at the time, it remained a favourite of the director. "To me it was perfect," he told Peter Bogdanovich. "It had a lot of damn good photography, with those black and white shadows. We had a good cameraman, Gabriel Figueroa, and we'd wait for the light - instead of the way it is nowadays where, regardless of the light, you

shoot." Figueroa was hired in an advisory capacity on Taxan and the Mermaids (1948), but he declined offers to work in the US permanently. Both he and Hernandez (who had fought in the Mexican revolution) were fiercely patriotic and proud of the acclaim they had brought to Mexican cinema. Most of the films they made reflected the social and economic conditions in

which they had grown up.

The dapper and genial
Figueroa's personality was in
stark contrast to that of the tempestuous Fernandez (who once shot a film critic during an argument). A rare Englishlanguage film, The Torch (1950), directed by Fernandez and starring Paulette Goddard and Armendariz, was unsuccessful, praised only for its photography, but the same year Figueroa worked for the first time with Luis Buffuel, on Los Olvidados. a harshly realistic study of children in the slums made in only 21 days.

Buñuel, who was to become noted for his "invisible mise-enscène", had strict views on the way he wanted his films photographed and Figueroa was able to realise his aims, whether in the narrative passages replete with symbolism or the surreal dream sequences. Los Olvidados won the photographer another prize at Cannes. Further Bunuel movies included Nazarin (1959), La Joven (1961), El Angel Exterminador 1962) and Simon del Desierto

When John Huston filmed Tennessee Williams's torrid tale of a defrocked priest working as a tour-guide in Mexico, The Night of the Iguana (1964), it was Figueroa who helped him capture the requisite atmosphere of scorched earth and exotic flora in which Richard Burton, Deborah Kerr and Ava Gardner emoted. In 1970 two Clint Eastwood action movies made in Europe had photography by Figueroa, Two Mules for Sister Sara and Kelly's Heroes. He worked with Huston again on what was to be Figueroa's last film, Under the Volcano (1984), imparting a richly atmospheric aura to the tale of an alcoholic diplomat (Albert Finney) in 1930s Mexico.

Tom Vallance

Gabriel Figueroa, cinematographer: born Mexico City 24 April 1907; married (one son, one daughter); died Mexico City 27

Denis Compton

Scyld Berry states in his obituary of Denis Compton [24 April] that the great contemporaries Hutton and Compton shared only one century stand in Test matches. Although fewer perhaps than might have been expected, there were five, writes J. K. Dishman. Against the West Indies at Lords (1939); Australia at Nottingham (1948); matches at an average of 57. New Zealand at Leeds (1949); After that his effectiveness was Australia at Lords (1953); and the West Indies at Georgetown (1953-54).

Berry also suggests that

tralians were too much for Compton. In 1938, aged 19, he became the youngest player to score a century in his first Test against that country while in the next match he stayed in for four hours, saving the side from defeat. In the first two Ashes series after the war he scored over a thousand runs in 10 sadly reduced by damage to his knee.

Finally, it was Compton's second wife who came from tough matches against the Aus- South Africa, not his first.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

CASEMENT: On 28 April 1997, at Stoke-on-livent, to Tima (nee Butch-er) and Jonathan, a son, George

EXADACTYLOS: On 28 April, at the Portland Hospital, to Diana and Philippos, a son, Alexandros Dimitrios. Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Duke of York attends the Soldiers, Sailors' and Airmen's Fremiles Association - Forces Heip Floral London Williams a programme of Cl. Princess Margaret learners a programme of Lindscape improvements summending the statue of February London W.2 and attends the Royal Caledonian Ball at the Grovenor House House London W.2 and Grovenor House House London W.

2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Left Goard at Horse Guards, Han, No. 7 Curpour Coldstram Gunris mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11,30am, hand provided by the Scuts Guards.

Birthdays

Righter: cosmopolitan

Mr Naim Attallah, publisher, 66; Mr John Belcher, Chief Executive, Anchor Trust, 50; Mr Gary Bertini, con-ductor, 70; Sir Richard Brooke, chartered accountant, 82; Mr Steve Cauthen, jockey, 37; Mr Ian Curteis, playwright, 62; Lord Dahrendorf, Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 68; Mr Glenn Ford, actor, 81; Dr Michael Goldstein, Vice-Chancellor, Coventry University, 58; Sir Irvine Goulding, former High Court judge, 87; Mr Joseph Heller, novelist, 74; Mr W. Leonard Hyde, former president, Leeds Permanent Building Society, 83; Professor Philip King, culptor, 63; Miss Joanna Lumley, actress, 51; Sir Bruce McPhail, managing director, P & O, 58; Mr Julian Mitchell, writer and playwright, 62; Mr Bo Nilsson, composer, 60; Air Cdr Dame Felicity Peake, first Director, WRAF, 84; Mr Sonny Ramadhin, former West Indies cricketer, 68: Sir Bob Reid, chairman, London Electricity, 63; Sir Lindsay Ring, former Lord Mayor of London, 83; Col Sir Greville Spratt, former Lord Mayor of London, 70: Miss Una Stubbs, actress, 60; Miss Wendy Tove, theatrical producer, 80; Prolessor Richard Welbourn. Emeritus Professor of Surgical Endocrinology,

Royal Postgraduate Medical School.

London University, 78; Admiral

Sir John Woodward, former

Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home

Anniversaries

Births: Joseph Addison, diarist and essavist, 1672; Jules-Adolphe Aimé-Louis Breton, painter, 1827. Deaths: John Dryden, poet, 1700; David Livingstone, missionary and explorer, 1873. On this day: the Union of Scotland and England was proclaimed. 1707; in New York, the Empire State
Building was opened, 1931. Today is
May Day (Labour Day) and the Feast
Day of St Amator or Amatre, St Briocus or Brieuc, St Joseph the Worker, St Peregrine Laziosi, St Sigismund of Burgundy and St Theodard of Nar-

Schools

King's College School, Wimbledon King's College School, Wimbledon celebrates today the centenary of its move from King's College in the Strand with a Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey. Among the guests will be the Principal of King's College, Professor Arthur Lucas, and other representatives of the college. The Right Rev Roy Williamson, Bishop of Southwark, will give the address. James Butler. Captain of School, and Mr Robin Reeve, the Head Master, will read the lessons. Prayers and intercessions will be led by members of the Junior and Senior Schools. The Jubilate will be sung to a setting composed for the service by Michael Zev Gordon. Old Boy of the school.

Reason for delay may be abuse of process of the court LAW REPORT His Lordship was satisfied

(Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Woolf, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde) 24 April 1997

The court was entitled to dismiss an action where it concluded that the reason for delay on the part of the plaintiff involved abusing the process of the court by continuing pro-

ceedings with no intention of bringing them to trial. The House of Lords dismissed the plaintiff's appeal against the Court of Appeal's dismissal of his appeal against an order that the writ and statement of claim in the proceedings should be struck out and the action dismissed for

want of prosecution. The plaintiff's claim was for damages for libel. Proceedings were commenced in August 1989. The action was dismissed for want of prosecution in October 1992. Isaac Jacob and Martin Young

(Fladgate Fielder) for the appellant;

the respondents were not represented.

Lord Woolf said that the appeal concerned the powers of the court to strike out proceedings. The approach which was adopted as the present time by courts on an application to dismiss an action for want of prosecution had been set out by Lord Diplock in Birkett v James [1978] AC 297, at 318.

The primary issue on the appeal was whether inexcusable and inordinate delay (if stigmatised as an abuse of process) could constitute prejudice without the need for the defendant to show actual prejudice or a substantial risk that a fair trial would be impossible, or alternatively whether it was per-missible to take elements which might amount to a ground for striking out for abuse of process, and combine them with delay and treat the combination as an additional and hybrid ground for striking out. least open to question whether

1 May 1997 The requirement in Birkett v it was not preferable to wait the James that delay had to cause "serious prejudice" to the defendants had been the subject of criticism. Those criti-

cisms had been considered

by Lord Griffiths in Department

of Transport v Chris Smoller Transport Ltd [1989] AC 1197. The period which had elapsed since Lord Griffiths' speech had not seen any improvement in the problems caused by delay in the conduct of civil proceedings. The introduction of the automatic strike-out in the county court had proved to be a crude remedy which had funded an industry of satellite litigation. Furthermore, there was now on

the horizon the introduction of the sort of reform to the rules of procedure which Lord Griffiths thought was required. In that situation it was at

outcome of the implementation of the new rules before making a substantial inroad into the principles in Birkett v James.

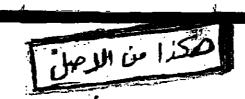
In the meantime both the court and defendants had the means to achieve greater control over delay. Defendants did not need to wait until there had been inordinate delay before applying for peremptory orders. and the courts should more readily make "unless orders", i.e. orders that an action should be struck out unless certain steps were taken at certain times.

In the present case the judge had come to the conclusion that there had been inordinate and inexcusable delay. He had found that there was "an element of prejudice" but had attached more importance to his finding that the plaintiff had no interest in actively pursuing the litigation.

that both the deputy judge and the Court of Appeal were entitled to reach the conclusion they had as to the reason for the appellant's inactivity in the libel action for over two years. The courts existed to enable parties to have their disputes resolved. To commence and continue litigation with no intention of bringing it to conclusion could amount to abuse of process. If there was an abuse of process it was not strictly necessary to establish want of prosecution under either of the limbs in Birkett v James.

In the present case, once the conclusion was reached that the reason for the delay was one which involved abusing the process of the court in maintaining proceedings when there was no intention of carrying the case to trial, the court was entitled to dismiss the

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



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Francisco was med make

Yes, quite a long embrace. How was it for you?

has been stremuous and perhaps a little laboured, but today at last comes relief. Today you get to do your civic duty, to have your way with the politicians rather than the other way around. Or (since you have the choice) you might not. You might choose to pass up the once-in-every-five-years chance to tip your weight into the balance. Today we'll set aside how you vote (or not), and instead consider whether it - this slightly more protracted than usual date with democ-

racy - was good for you (or not). It has been a campaign where many people got their ennut in first Issues, personalities, party formations could all have been equally well displayed within three weeks. Even if an informal contest had not been running since last autumn, six weeks is too long. We do not need to test politicians' stamina, or their capacity to leap in and out of helicopters, buses and automobiles dozens of times in a day. Yet fixed-term parliaments - a demand of electoral reformers since the Chartists - would not get round the problem, because then the whole parade drags on for a couple of years, as the constant campaigning that goes on in the United States shows. Would a future prime minister be tempted to extend the formal period again? It's unlikely: if he becomes an ex-prime minister, John Major will have to live with his regrets.

But the length of the campaign has not been the only complaint. Some people are worried that democracy is being tainted by the slick profession-alism of modern campaigning. Spinners have been busier than spiders, and people are moaning that the whole business has been so packaged and controlled and pre-fixed and soundbited that it's not real. Oh no, the lament goes up, American superficiality has finally destroyed our fine old hustings traditions.

That is an understandable anxiety, but mostly, thank goodness, unfounded. Professional campaigning is a natural result of multiplying media outlets. And multiplying media outlets have given voters more opportunity to listen to, challenge, question, laugh at, weep over what politicians say and think than at any time in the history of our parliamentary democracy. John Major's complaint yesterday that the media did not allow him to get the message over would be laughable if it were not pathetic. The truth is that people have been soaked repeatedly from head to foot with the issues for the past many months, and forcibly ducked and drenched for the past six weeks.

For all the stage management of events, the campaign seems at times to have been nothing but the aggressive quizzing of leaders. It has not just been the public's proxies in the shape of tele-



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

lively questions in real time. The public themselves have had direct access in a variety of phone-ins and audience participation shows. All the right questions have at one time and another been asked and, more or less adequately, answered.

The idea that somehow the system has conspired to deny access to the "real issues" is thoroughly disproved by the energetic presence of the singletheme parties. Sir James Goldsmith has done the electorate sterling service in one sense, at least; that portion of it that thinks Europe the great matter has vision and radio journalists asking an opportunity to exercise its choice.

Anarchists, clowns, anti-abortionists,

and levitators have their choices, too. A fashionable cry lately has been none of the above". We worry about the apathy of our post-Thatcher youth, the ones who slump back and say they don't want to vote, oh no, because it's all a lot of cojones. A set of selfappointed generational spokespeople has proclaimed its disaffection. What's new? Young people always have registered less and voted less and doubtless always will - for the good reason that they have more pressing calls on their time. There has been detectable, none the less, an uncomfortable whingeing tone in the vox pops collected by us and other media from young people. It suggests elections are like a visit to a burger outlet where, when a tripledecker with fries is not on the menu, a keening note of self pity is sounded. But parties are more than hucksters, just as citizens are more than consumers. If none of the above, where are the new parties that would reflect what young people say are their concerns; where are the youthful advocates of those institutional reforms that would allow new political formations to flourish?

Modern Britain is not Aristotle's Athens, where the citizens can be expected to gather, figuratively, on the hillside to debate and decide the fate of the polis. Yet enthusiasts for gadgetry suggest there are ways in which people can, from the comfort of their armchairs, zap into democratic participation. Government by plebiscite is on our doorsteps. (All parties favour a ref-erendum on a single currency. Labour picks up an old Michael Heseltine suggestion that local authorities conduct polls before they decide their budgets. Promising, this, isn't it?) Meanwhile, nearer home, one of the results of the reforms in public service management in recent years - by no means all of them of Thatcherite inspiration - has been to encourage local political activity around schools, hospitals and housing estates. In other words, there is no shortage of democratic opportunity.

What about democratic will? The acid test is election turnout. In most parts of the country, the forecast is for a sunny spring day. Last time round, in 1992, some 78 per cent of eligible voters turned out, a magnificent figure considering the proportion of people on the electoral rolls who are aged, infirm or just plain indifferent. Our prediction for today is that that total will be exceeded. British democracy can certainly improve, but it's alive and kicking. Give it a go.

Public asset: please queue

In season, the pony path up Ben Nevis gets heavily congested, the sides of the mountain erode and the summit becomes a rubbish dump. The peak exemplifies the classic problem of free access to a public facility leading to destruction of the asset. (We report today another example: the threat to fish stocks in the southern oceans.) The textbook response is to charge, limiting access by price. But Ben Nevis can hardly be fenced off, with guards in Fort William and along Glen Nevis stopping climbers coming up the back way. A possible solution is a new tourist slogan: "Get away from it all in Scotland: queue to climb a mountain.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Whoever wins, taxes will have to go up

Sir: Gavyn Davies (28 April) is normally such a level-headed commentator that it is disappointing to find him indulging in wishful thinking. But his argument that taxes will not need to rise after the election really does

not pass muster.
Mr Davies says, and it is hard to disagree, that it is very hard to imagine a Labour chancellor sticking to the very low planned growth figures for public spending. He then argues that this is not really a problem because the Government is assuming that the public finances would go into a budget surplus of 2 per cent of GDP in 2001-2, the last year of the chancellor set a budget deficit of 1 per cent of GDP - which would meet the "golden rule" of public finance whereby the Government should only borrow for capital investment - then he would be able to add 3 per cent of GDP to public spending, or some £27bn. And if this is spread over five years, the growth rate of spending can go up to 2 per cent.

argument. The first is that the Government has probably been over-optimistic about its revenue projections, because it has assumed that the economy will continue to grow at 2.5 per cent a year. A more realistic long-run growth path would probably be 2.2 per cent. So there will be less tax revenue than

The second problem is that the extra spending can only be spread over five years if borrowing is higher in the early years than is currently planned. This is not sensible, since the economy is already showing signs of overheating (with pay pressures rising, for example). A more relaxed fiscal stance would risk raising interest rates compared with what they would otherwise be. It would also risk raising the exchange rate, which is already more than 16 per cent higher than it was at the end of 1995, and is hurting many exporters. Such a dose of "Reaganomics" would impose a cost in terms of our long-

plans and a better-balanced recovery which does not hit the tradeable sector, and that is to finance extra public spending through higher taxes rather than more borrowing. CHRISTOPHER HUHNE Economics Director, IBCA Ltd. London EC2

Homeless suffer

for the election the Government introduced regulations that would, if passed, limit housing benefit for single private-sector tenants under 60 to the cost of a single room with

-As representatives of organisations working in the fields of housing and homelessness, we believe that these restrictions. would lead to an increase in homelessness and would, by making it more difficult for people on benefit to find acceptable housing in the private sector.

There are two problems with this projected, even if the recent holes in VAT and excises are plugged.

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run growth prospects. There is only one option which will deliver both credible spending

new regulations

Sir: Shortly before Parliament rose shared facilities.

penalise both responsible landlords and prospective tenants.

The regulations were introduced | How to pick the in spite of the Social Security Advisory Committee's recommendation that no action should be taken until similar restrictions affecting people under 25, which were introduced last October, had been properly evaluated. We believe that to proceed without such an evaluation is at the very least imprudent, and could lead to considerable

poorest people in our society.
We therefore call upon whichever party is in government after 1 May to accept the SSAC's recommendation and withdraw these regulations until a proper evaluation of the effects of existing restrictions, both on individuals and on the private rented market, has been carried out. DAVID WARNER Director, Homeless Network ION FITZMAURICE Director, CHAR Housing Campaign for Single People

suffering among some of the

CHRIS HOLMES Director, Shelter JOHN GOWANS The Salvation Army ALAN WARD National Federation of Residential Landlords London SWI

News reviewed

Sir: As I remove the note under my doorbell reading No political canvassers please, I wonder whether, having deprived us of news for six weeks, the media will make amends by providing résumés of what has been going on in the world.

KROWAT Sherborne, Dorset

winners by name

Sir: With this election remarkable for lack of clear blue water between the two main parties and lack of clear blue touch-paper to ignite popular interest, voters might take a diversionary interest in that largely overlooked aspect, the frequency of the names of

First, they might provide us with good reason not to vote for some candidates. Most of the party leaders are loners, and do we really want loners? There is only one Major and one Ashdown though there are two Blairs. What future can these names have when faced with the 38 Smiths, the 30 Joneses, the 25 Brown(e)s, the 24 Williamses, the 20 Clark(e)s and

the 19 Taylors? And "big names" such as these have significant advantages over parties. They don't form restrictive cabals and they are untainted by the search for election funding.

The table shows just how valuable a vote for a "name" can be, if you are fortunate enough to have one standing in your constituency. Look how representative some of the names are, in gender terms, and in terms of their personal values as measured by their membership of

Not all perform well on all counts. The Joneses are excellent on gender, with women as 30 per cent of candidates. The Smiths, Williamses and Taylors all achieve

Name Lab L-D other Smith (30%) (4%) iones 12 6 Brown(e) Taylor

more than 20 per cent of women. The Browns, on the other hand, display abnormally high sexism. with only 1 of their 25 candidates a

Overall it is to the Taylors that we must look for best name at this election. They score 21 per cent of women and they are evenly spread in terms of party affiliation. By contrast, the Smiths and Browns are clearly over-representing minor parties, and the Clark(e)s have a real problem attracting Conservatives and Lib Dems.

The Taylors are also to be admired for their modest and reasonable ambition. Whereas the Joneses are seeking to increase their representation in the House of Commons from 8 to 30, the Smiths from only 6 to a massive 38 and the Williamses from a meagre 2 to an outrageous 24, the Taylors are going for steadier growth from their present 6 MPs to a maximum

of 19. The only blot is evidence of some infighting. There are two Taylors head-to-head in two different constituencies. However, the Williamses are fighting each other in three constituencies. The Clark(e)s are the name to be

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056;

e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk, E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be

edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

admired here, with 20 of them fighting in 20 different JOHN TAYLOR

Truth in polls

Alva, Central Scotland

Sir: Conrad Jameson's article about the opinion polls (24 April) makes no contribution whatsoever to aiding understanding why poll results taken at the same time sometimes diverge, or why the polls failed to predict the result of

the 1992 election. His thesis appears to be that so many respondents lie to pollsters as to make accurate polling impossible, and that this was the cause of the polls' error in 1992. The theory of lying respondents was investigated and specifically rejected by an exhaustive report following a two-year inquiry sponsored by the Market Research Society, it simply does not explain the facts. The explanations the MRS report endorses, with 160 pages of evidence - late swing, differential refusal and failures in the quota sampling - Jameson

dismisses or ignores.

It is Jameson's explanation that is unsupported by the evidence, not that unanimously reached by the MRS Inquiry team of experts, which included independent academics and market researchers as well as pollsters.
ROBERT M WORCESTER Chairman, Market and Opinion Research International

Forgotten shame Sir: I am surprised never to have seen in any British media what seems to me the best reason not to

vote for John Major. From 1992 to 1995 the worst and most numerous atrocities Europe has known since the Second World War happened in former Yugoslavia, notably in Bosnia. It is not an exaggeration to say that several Dunblanes were happening each day there. And concentration camps have been functioning before the world's eyes since 1992.

Europe's strongest military powers. Mitterrand's France and Major's UK, knew this better than anybody. They clearly had the technical means to stop these dreadful sufferings, whatever the White House's opinion. They have done nothing. JEAN-MARIE GABUS Geneva

If only... Sir: Am I the only person who knows an awful lot of people who say they would vote Liberal Democrat if only they stood a

chance? BEVERLEY JOHNSTON Welling, Kent

Thatcher's airhead revenge", 28

Fury at five

Sir: I am sick and tired of middleaged, middle-class journalists passing judgement on my entire generation (Polly Toynbee; "Mrs Aprīl).

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Young people are not all "airtieads" and "know-nothings", and the decision not to vote is not a "fashion statement". As far as I can see (and as Ms Toynbee's article actually confirms), young people have got it right: real impact is made by demonstrating - not by putting a little mark on a little bit of

paper once every five years.
The young people who'd risk
anything for their beliefs are more
"political" than the middle-aged man or woman who spends five minutes every five years trotting down to a polling station. London SE22

Training of surgeons at risk

Sir: I was glad that you highlighted some of the problems of the Health Service ("The truth about health: An ailing service is ignored by the politicians", 30 April).

I quite agree that most of the real problems in the NHS have not been addressed by either of the main parties. I would, however, like to draw your attention to the problem you did not mention. Future doctors will be trained under the extraordinary impression that all surgery is either an emergency or urgent. Our medical students and surgeons in training will get little, if any, experience in dealing with routine but usually very successful elective surgical conditions. Professor JOHN A DORMANDY,

Department of Vascular Surgery London SW17

Wanted posters

Sir: Where are the election posters and placards in people's windows and on their fences? I have hardly seen any at all. Does this mean that we are too embarrassed to tell our neighbours which political party we support, or have none of us made up our minds whom we are going to vote for? Are the pollsters taking account of this low level of self-Dr J R LUBIN London N20

Hurtful words

Sir: My most metnorable quote from John Major is his brutal and chilling, "If it isn't hurting, it isn't working". I had just become redundant and a bit of sympathy would have gone a long way. MICHAEL ATKINSON High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

Saved by Scargill

Sir: As a lifelong supporter of both the Conservative Party, and British participation and leadership in Europe, I am in a quandary. Do I vote for Old Conservative (Major), New Conservative (Blair), or Lib Dem as the only pro-European party left? The truth is, no major party now reflects my views. At least the socialists can still vote for Scargill.

GRAHAM DON Market Overton, Ruland

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workpass was one of the to the moment when a woman manuel or work and the cartoon in 1853 was one of the

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Shaken? Vote for the cocktail party



In an age of blended ideological flavours and shockingly decadent political habits, Paul Vallely toasts the cocktail as the perfect accompaniment to election night

> ou could always lay in what the more vulgar Tory MPs nowadays tend to call a crate of champagne. But bubbly crated, cased or solus - is a risky drink for election night. So much can go wrong, and when it does champagne loses its lustre and tastes of foolishness or presumption.

No, given the mix-and-match policies of modern political parties, a far more appropriate tipple for tonight is the cocktail. It has, after all a respectable political history. Winston Churchill was big on martinis, as were his chief comrades in arms; Roosevelt - the man who poured the first legal martini in the United States at the end of the ill-starred Prohibi-·tion experiment - used to plv Stalin with them in what a presidential aide called the "four martinis and let's have an agreement" era.

And the cocktail is something of an index of political mood. If cocktail consumption does not correlate exactly with down-turns in the economy, it does seem to have a link with feelgood factor" or rather the lack of it. Think of the Twenties - socially roaring, but ending in economic depression. Or the sophisticated Thir-ties, blithely foxtrotting towards world war. Just as sales of chocolate soar during a recession, so the cocktail flourishes when people most need compensatory cheer; small comforts burgeon in troubled times. That's my

theory, anyway.
Salvatore Calabrese agrees. He is
the chief bartender at that favoured hang-out of wealthy Americans, The Lanesborough hotel in London (before the Thatcher era it was, aptly enough, an NHS hospital). Agreeing



armoury of skills a good barman must possess. He also disagrees: Cos if people only drank them during the bad times, I'd be out business." Which, thankfully, the best martini-maker

in the capital, is not. But then the cocktail has always been a sign of contradiction, a mark of simultaneous frivolity and finesse. I must get out of these wet clothes and into a dry martini," wagged some sophisticate in the Thirties. Three decades on Dave Brubeck's sax player could find no way describing the tone he was attempting to extract except by saying that he aimed to sound like a dry martini. Sgr Calabrese cannot dispute that since both quotes come from the neat little book,

full of splendid period illustrations, he has just produced called Classic Cocktails (Prion Books), which charts the history of the admixture. It is full of improbable anecdotes about the genesis of the term - legends about cocks' feathers, about a

chemist from New Orleans (coquetier is French for egg cup), about the drinking ceremonies of a Mexican king. There are almost as many rival claims as there are for the provenance of the martini (the town of Martinez in California, various Italian barmen in New York hotels, or the Martini & Henry rifle used by the British army between 1871 and 1891). Whatever, the history of the

FLOATING VOTER An Election Night Cocktail

created for 'The Independent' by Salvatore Calabrese head cocktral barman at the nesborough Hotel. London and author of Classic Cockails (Prion Books, £9.99)

1. Mix a few drops Grenadine, 2cl Fraise du Bois liqueur, 1 el Cointreau and a little lemon juice. Shake, Pour into a high-ball glass full of ice.

mango juices. Trickle over a bar spoot so the vellow layer floats on the red.

3. In a separate glass mix 2.5 cl of . feater gin and u few drops of blue curação. Float the mixture on the Lib Dem lever

4. Garnish with a strawberry (very British)

Serve with three straws, one in each layer, to enable all three to be tasted together while keeping the red, yellow and blue distinct. The Tories get the hort straw but Signor Calabrese is too diplomatic to point this out.

burgundy and Majorism with its downturn and designer beer. Until Kenneth Clarke's feel-bad boom, the martini was almost extinct, save in sanctuaries like Salvatore's. "It's really on the up now," says Alex Turner, a director of the improbable London Academy of Bartending, which opened last year and already has produced 100 graduates. "This rise is nationwide, with almost every big city now boasting at least one designer bar where for a fiver or so the feverishly fashionable can

In the mould of Manchester's Dry 201, London has the ultra-hip Euro bar Riki Tik which specialises in

Woo-Wou (a cocktail of vodka, peach

schnapps, lemon and cranberry juice). At Bar Ten in Glasgow the best-seller is margaritas and at The Courtyard in Leeds they get off on chocolate-flavoured vodka. It's back with a vengeance in New York too, where the Ultimate Beefeater Martini is garnished with a single

sliver of blue fillet steak. The competition is now on for the driest martini. There is nothing new in that, of course; Winston Churchill made his by pouring gin into a pitcher and "glancing briefly at a bottle of vermouth" across the other side of the room. But today's bartenders use vinegar shakers to float two drops on the surface of the driest gin (never Gordons - that is best downed with tonic) or throw the vermouth from the glass before the

spirit goes in. At the most in of the new venues the Met Bar in The Metropolitan hotel in London - they call their barmen mixologists. I went along to see their top mixer, 22-year-old Cairbry Hill, a former medical student, to discover the secret of his martinis, which come in mini, classic and greedy sizes and 24 alcopop flavours including, strawberry, passion

fruit and chocolate orange. As a mission of investigative journalism it was a failure. For this temple of lush minimalism - home of music and fashion industry types, and their victims, good-time PR girls and men who looked like failed extras from a Quentin Tarantino movie ~ refused me admittance on the grounds that I was not a member (of

a hotel bar?), though I suspect it was

as W C Fields (below), who drank them for breakfast really on account of my deeply unhip corduroy suit. (I am in good company here; Riki-Tik once

> tino himself for wearing a suit, though probably not (corduroy). Undaunted I ploughed on to the Atlantic Bar and Grill to watch the substances slipping down the throats of barebacked women, ponytailed men wearing silk suits and unseemly characters who looked as if they fled Iran when the Shah fell. The atmosphere had that same mixture of spirits, sex

turned away Taran-

and sin which characterised the age of the flapper, only without its subtlety. The Twenties was a time of innuendo. Its cocktails bore cheeky names like Knickerbocker. Temptation and Bosom Caresser; its advertisements were full of delightful ambiguity.

But if Marlene Dietrich liked men who like martinis, at J W Johnson's in Manchester, where 20 per cent of drinks sold are now cocktails, they are altogether more direct. One of their best-sellers is a Screaming Multiple Orgasm. You might think that the fun is in asking for one rather than drinking its mix of Kahlua, Baileys. Amareito and cream. You would be wrong. You can get it in a glass in the bar upstairs but in the nightclub below the customer can lie spreadeagled on the bar and have the waiter of her choice administer it in a way of which readers of a respectable newspaper might prefer to remain in ignorance.

Back at The Lanesborough, I settle for a White Lady (gin, Cointreau and fresh lemon juice). Sgr Calabrese is pondering his Floating Voter, an election night special (see recipe, left). "I think it will work - red, blue and yellow. That is sweetness with Labour, the non-alcoholic virginity of the Lib Dems and strength for the Conservatories." I am thinking of an old epigram: One cocktail is just right, two is too many and three is never enough. Was it the same, I wondered. with terms of office?

"It will taste good," Sgr Calabrese pronounces. It may well do on the night. But what about the aftereffects? A five-year hangover is a thought to be reckoned with.

decade of the three-martini lunch (as well as, not instead of) and the YOUR Sixties - along with Carnaby Street, Kubrik and Cointreau - brought into fashion the Brandy Alexander (brandy, crême de cação and cream) PENSION: into the height of swinging sophistication. Then the film of Casino Royale popularised the massive sole-IN YOUR cism of James Bond's vodka martini "shaken not stirred" - a thought that horrified purists who drank it stirred OWN TIME, so that, as Somerset Maugham once put it, "the molecules [of the gin and IN YOUR one another". shabbiness and Lawsonism with its boom and OWN WAY. A Merchant Investors pension is an easy, convenient and flexible pension. The charges are low. You can vary your contributions without charge. Merchant Investors Pay no commission when you buy direct. Assurance No sales person Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and part of Allianz - one of Europe's largest insu will bother you. Mail this coupon to: Merchant Investors Assurance Company Limited, Freepost BS 6013, Bristol BS1 2UZ MR / MRS / MISS / MS (please circle as appropriate) INITIALS POSTCODE CALL NOW ON re you EMPLOYED or SELF EMPLOYED? (please circle) 0800 374857 FOR A BROCHURE EMPLOYED, are you in your company pension scheme?

Your last-ditch guide to election clichés

W hat kind of an election has this been as far as cliches are concerned? A bad one. They have come thick and fast. In what have these cliches In droves. Are the politicians wholly to hlame?

in particular the martini.

is the history of our social mores. The

word may have been first recorded in

Repository, and mixtures like Black

Velvet may have been traced to 1861,

when at Brooks's in London a barman

coloured the club champagne with

Guinness in mourning for Prince

Albert, but it was a political act that

defined the drink. Prohibition, which

ran in the United States from 1921 to

1933, was the mother of the cocktail.

Some 70 per cent of today's cocktails

were created during the era of the

speak-easy in which men like Al

Capone and Joe Kennedy, father of

John F, made their reputations and

And so it went. The Fifties was the

vermouth) lie sensuously on top of

But then came Thatcherism, with its

champagne,

No. The media must also bear. What must they bear? The brunt. The brunt of what? The blame. But now the election battle is almost over?

Yes. We are now almost

in sight of that stick stuck in the ground to signify the end of the What stick might that be? The winning post. But to get to the winning post, what bend-free area do ve first have to cover?

The home straight.

After that the winner will be home. He will. What else will he be, apart

from home? Dry. Home and dry. Who does everyone expect to Labour. Barring what? A last-minute upset. What would that be? A miracle now.

By what geological freak is Labour expected to win? A landslide. And if they don't, what will we have on our hands? A major upset.

And the biggest surprise since who beat who? Truman beat Dewey. Good. If Labour do win. will it be prettily? No, it will be handsomely. Will it be a dirty sweep?

No. A clean sweep.

But if Labour don't win,

Miles Kington

Well, I suppose the Torics will win. No. no, I mean that if the Tories win. it will be a turnup for something, won't it?

Yes, sorry. Turn-up for the book. And one in which optical One in the eve ...

themselves. They are selfappointed pundits. Exactly. Although the newspapers are their Their paymasters? I think so, Have the newspapers themselves declared which party they are in favour of? Oh, yes. They have all nailed their colours, To which important part of the boat have they nailed their colours?

For the pundits.

dish known as ...?

pundits appointed.

Who will have to eat a folk

Humble pie? Good. By whom are these

By no one. Or rather, by

The mast. To what are they flocking? Mr Blair's standard. Has John Major given up? Never. He will not give in till the bitter end. He says that it is all to play for. There are some

things he will never say. Such as? Die. He will never say die. But surely even John Major knows that 10 Downing Street will soon have a new something?

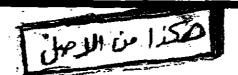
A new tenant? Correct. In what internal organ does Mr Major know

His heart of hearts. But he will not give up... Without a battle royal? Without a fight to the

death? Yes, yes, we know that. But when will he not give up? Oh, I see. He will not give up until the eleventh hour.

His dying breath? Not as late as that. The final whistle? Excellent. So is it all over?

Bar something? Sorry - bar the shouting-Thank you. You're welcome.



So farewell then, John Major, man of shadows

Polly

Toynbee

Grey, hollow

and lacking

in vision till

the end -

history will

not be kind

to the

Prime

Minister

after his six

years in

power

e were gathered together in the sight of The Voter for the last time to bid farewell to our Prime Minister - a requiem for his passing. He is not much of a churchgoer, but looking up the relevant words of the Book of Common Prayer, I wondered if pausing in the wings for yesterday's press conference he might murmur, "Lord, let me know mine end and the number of my days that I may be certified how long I have to live." Or perhaps, "Deliver me from mine offences and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish."

This was the last of some 120 morning press conferences for all three parties. Here we were at the very end, so might he give us a sign, a word, something to move us a little? But no. How like the man to leave us with nothing, no last-minute inspiration, no sudden lifting of his game just as the light fades. No, there was no hint of tragedy at his fall - the birds still sang.

The man has a limitless ability to disappoint. Who knows, perhaps tomorrow when it's all over and far too late, at last he will find words to touch us, words to match the occasion. But probably not, certainly nothing as magnificent as Margaret Thatcher's hot tears of outrage as she left Downing Street for the last time.

ta above s resalt

Chica poster center chica to America to

History will not be kind to John Major. Our children in 50 years' time will scratch their heads and try to remember who came in the fallow years between Thatcher and Blair. What was his name? What did he do? Yet the remarkable

fact remains that this mediocre man, devoid of vision, has indeed held on to power for six long years. Not much loved and much mocked, when he speaks now we see Rory Bremner blinking, more real than the shadowy man himself.

How did John Major do it? He was a mainstay of the Thatcher years; hardly a poil tax protester, yet when the blame was handed out he wasn't there. When his ministers signed papers to let innocent businessmen go to jail for selling arms to Iraq, he wasn't there either, not him. Honest John was Slippery John. Sleaze? He knew nothing. Unsavoury funds for his party? No one told him. Sacrifice Britain's interests abroad for the sake of appeasing the lunatic right? Of course not. Whip up dangerous Europhobia in the electorate in the vain hope of victory? That's politics. But it was he who took us into the ERM, and he who fell so ignominiously out of it: he never could dodge that mighty knock-out blow, and his poll ratings never recovered.

No, he wasn't Honest John, or Mr Nice Guy, but he was lucky. And despite his lumbering verbal infelicity, he had the footwork of a mountain goat. Only the deep rift in his party kept him in office, dividing and ruling. Standing with a foot on either side of a widening crevasse is a well-known posture for retaining power - each side hating him a little less than the enemy. But it is neither a dignified nor glo-

rious role for the history books, as Harold Wilson's reputation shows. There will be precious little sentimentalising at his wake. The past six weeks have been

a long deathwatch. The grey man pinned his hopes on making the people love him: instead he has been stripped bare, with the polls hardly nudging since the first day,
Why? Because in the end the cameras do not lie. Night after he territory isn't uncharted, but the

maps are pretty

Labour wins tonight,

moth-eaten.

Tony Blair will be only the sec-

ond Labour leader since

Clement Attlee to win a general

election. And unlike either

Harold Wilson or Attlee he will

know nothing of Cabinet gov-

ernment from the inside. Yet by the end of tomorrow he will have laid down the essential

building blocks of an adminis-

tration likely, if the polls are

anything to go by, to last well

A Labour win will be a func-tion of Blair's leadership and

transformation of a party that

it had been possible to doubt

would ever win an election

again. No leader has ever, at

least in opposition, put his or

her personal stamp on a party

in the way he has. The question

now is, can he run the country as firmly and distinctively?

This will depend on many

things, among them the Cabi-

net he appoints immediately,

how he can make the machin-

ery of government work for

him, and his own will for

The Cabinet first. In theory,

at least, Blair faces one con-straint that would have

appalled Attlee or Wilson: a

crazy party rule which pre-

scribes that the elected mem-

bers of the Shadow Cabinet are

appointed to the Cabinet.

Crazy, because even when it

was introduced during the high

tide of Bennism in the early

1980s the Shadow Cabinet had

only 12 members, leaving any

prime minister the absolute

right to choose over half his

Cabinet. Now the elected mem-

bers, plus all the ex-officio posts, including Leader and Deputy

will all be in the Cabinet.

brownie points for loyalty and energy in the election cam-

paign, so the foregoing are shaping up like a possible "Big

Four" of a Labour government.

as Home Secretary; David

Blunkett will go to Education.

Margaret Beckett, now indis-

putably a big player, will prob-

Jack Straw will be confirmed

change and radicalism.

into the next century.

night we have seen him and his party flounder in the harsh glare of the television lights. And voters have not liked what they have seen: a party riven by a multitude of candidates bribed by a businessman to disobey their leaders and print their own rebellious anti-European manifestos. A leader who could not escape 18 vears of blame for everything anyone thinks is wrong with any-thing. A leader who embraced sleaze personified when he endorsed Neil Hamilton, And Labour's well-aimed hammer blows of 22 Tax Rises prevented any last chance of another Dou-ble Whammy fight-back. The

man never stood a chance. If the evil that men do lives after them, the charges against Major are legion; the deepening divide between the poor and the rest, the galloping greed of the rich, the odour of corruption in the air and the humiliation he has inflicted on us by his behaviour abroad.

But lest we inter the shreds of good with his bones, there was one moment in the campaign only one - when John Major reached for something better, a

rare and tantalising glimpse of the leader some of us once thought he could be. It was that day in mid-campaign when at last he faced down his own revolting candidates and put as neat and eloquent a case as anyone has ever made for why we might want to join the single currency. It was an act of bravery, firmness and, yes, a little passion - all the things his leader-ship has lacked. Now, at this eleventh hour, would the man come into his own? No, it was only the flash of a firecracker, not the kindling of a fire. But it was a sad reminder that in his very first days there was a chance that he might become the great healer of Thatcherite abrasions, a good manager, a good European, the classless one-nation leader who now sounds so

For Labour, the dark years are over. Even now Prince Hal is casting off the shabby and unprincely clothes required for fighting general elections. Early tomorrow morning he will step out in his true guise into a world that is his oyster. He can be anything that he wants to be, and now we wait to see what that is. He travels so light, with a majority so great, that

he has no excuse for failing.

How easy it should be for him to shine over the bleached bones of this dead regime. How easy to eclipse John Major in an instant, our undear departed leader. "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away: blessed is the name

The who's who of Blair's top team

by Donald Macintyre



ably also be confirmed at Trade and Industry. Mo Mowlam is set for Northern Ireland

Leader, come to 27, and there are only 22 paid Cabinet posts. Beyond that it isn't easy to be certain: Alistair Darling, a cam-So something will have to give. Shadow Cabinet members will paign star and an unelected member of the Shadow Cabinet, looks likely be in the Caball be offered posts but it just isn't credible to assume they inet. Donald Dewar could well become Scottish Secretary, If there is a victory, Gordon charged with the massive task of seeing through the Devolu-tion Bill, with the present Brown (Chancellor), Robin Cook (Foreign Office) and John Prescott (probably Enviincumbent, George Robertson, ronment and Transport as well a candidate for Defence. Despite reports to the conas Deputy Prime Minister) are trary, Clare Short may be safe with Cabinet responsibility for likely to be appointed tomorrow. Prescott has won massive

international development. The Weishman Paul Murphy is heavily tipped for the Minister of State role currently taken in the political Northern Ireland talks. Peter Mandelson has delivered what looks pending a result - like a hugely successful election campaign.

and won't be a ministerial "chief of staff". He will be a Minister of State - possibly under Cook, or elsewhere. The one certainty is that there will be no ideological bloodbath. So how does Blair impose

himself, and a collective strategy, on a government full of potentially warring ministers fighting turi wars? Semi-institutionalisation of an inner group drawn from among the Friday appointees would help. There might be areas they would find it difficult to agree; but once they had, it wouldn't be difficult to impose such an agreement on the rest of the Cabinet. Also, giving Blair's mentor, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, chairmanship of key Cabinet committees would ensure that a deeply trusted lieutenant was there to enforce the Prime Minister's will.

But ministers are only part of But he won't be in the Cabinet, the story. Expect muffled

squeals from the Civil Service when Jonathan Powell is con-firmed as principal private seo-retary to the Prime Minister, replacing Alex Allan, who is likely to depart pretty swiftly for Australia as High Commissioner. Like Alastair Campbell, who will be the PM's press secretary, Powell will be coming in as a political appointee.

But private secretaries, unlike press secretaries have always previously come from inside the Civil Service. (William Clark, Macmillan's press secretary, and Joe Haines, who worked for Harold Wilson, both came from outside the Civil Service.) And this is a key iob: Powell will be an unrivalled influence on Margaret Thatcher's behalf, and he was technically only the No 2. However, the squeals may be quite

servant rather than a politico by trade, and worked in the British Embassy in Washington when he was recruited by Blair. And there is nothing in writing to stop this happening. Blair's view is that the qual-

ity, energy and trustworthiness of the people around him is more important than the machinery itself. Nevertheless, there has been one strong hint of a possible chan

The book The Blair Revolution, which Mandelson published last year with Roger Liddle, drew attention first to the need for the Treasury to have a broader role "than merely carving up public expenditure". Which under Brown it will certainly have. It also drew attention to the fact that while No 10 - "a town house rather than a stately home" - could only accommodate a small staff, through the green baize door is the Cabinet Office, which he implied should be more at the disposal of the Prime Minister. "The Cabinet Office should be more akin to the department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ... acting more in future like a policy-making permanent secretary than as a business manager and minute-taker."

Sir Robin Butler - who irri-tated Blair's office by an overzealous briefing this week on the mechanics of a government handover - is due for retirement as Cabinet Secretary by next year. When he is replaced Andrew Turnbull at the Department of Environment is one of several possible candidates - the role of the Cabi-

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net Office could be changed. Even strong prime ministers find it difficult from time to time to impose their will on government. In his book on the British constitution, Ferdinand Mount, who was head of Margaret Thatcher's Policy Unit in the early 1980s, complains that it was an uphill struggle even for her. But Blair hasn't come this far to let his project be dis-

sipated in Whitehall backbiting. It looks as if the electorate has been utterly unimpressed by complaints about New Labour's lack of government experience. Perhaps, after all, if Blair had been born a Labour insider he wouldn't have even attempted what he has succeeded in doing to the party. His will isn't exactiv in doubt. Attlee was a long-time member of the wartime politigatekeeper to the PM. His big cal establishment when he brother, Charles, wielded huge became prime minister; Wilson had been a civil servant as well as a Cabinet minister. It may be a more positive advantage than anyone expects for Blair to have short-lived. Powell is a civil been neither.

An Unofficial Eton College Home Page

t is surprising to find that Eton College -that citadel of all things modern, go-ahead and cutting-edge - has no web site to call its own on the Internet. It's got a gigantic computer network, sure, and the capacity to e-mail the rest of the world, but no actual database of facts 'n' info about the nation's most famous school. So it must have been quite a shock when one of the computer beaks, surfing listlessly around the globe the other day, discovered the existence of something called "The Unofficial Eton Web Page". Further enquiries revealed a tale of opportunism, lust and transatlantic intrigue. The site had been established, the college discovered, in Los Angeles by a 33-year-old Americanised Thai former male-murse called Win, who developed an obsession about Eton after reading Stand By Your God, a memoir of life among the boaters, fives courts, wall games and people called "m'tutor", written by the novelist Paul Watkins, Mr Watkins, whose narratives of Hemingwayesque derring do (Calm at Sunset Calm at Dawn, In the Blue Light of African Dreams) are currently in the hands of the Hollywood film studios, possesses the kind of reckless good looks that make people swoon over Hugh Grant, and it's possible that the impressionable Wtin had a slight, manly crush on him. At all events, the site was set up, and the Internet hummed with data, as Old Etonians were grilled for information about their beloved alma mater, for the benefit of gawping Los Angelenos. Then Wtin got through, via e-mail, to a genuine, living, breathing 16-year-old Eton scholar, actually at the college, with whom he proceeded to embellish his web pages. Together they constructed a virtual reality tour of the school, a glossary of slang "chambers", "the bill", "getting a ticket") and other vital hits of Etoniana. It was then that the Eton

The old-school Thai who left US babes lusting after a royal Etonian stud-muffin

walsh

beaks discovered the existence of Wtin's web, but rather than hit the roof, they approved of it. With remarkable phlegm, they even contacted Wtin to correct a few factual errors. But then they discovered something of which they simply could not approve. Can you guess? It was the Comment page of the web site, where e-mails arrive from all over the world. And an embarrassing number of American ones bore the same message: "I want to shag Prince William". Ever since a picture of the Prince of Wales's elder son had been included on one of the web pages, the female college population of California had gone into a collective frenzy. "How," one girl wrote with a trace of desperation, "can I get into his class?"
It was too much for Eton. They

contacted Wtin. Look here, old boy, they said. Won't do. Bit near the knuckle. Bit infra dig. Can't have gels from the dominions expressin' interest in 13year-old royalty. Close down that bit, would you, there's a good fellow... And amazingly, the old-school Thai did just that - leaving hordes of lust-crazed American babes frantically contacting any Old Etonians with an e-mail address, asking for news of their hero. I've a print-out of one such communication in front of me. "How can I get in touch with Prince William?" it breathes. "He's such a stud-muffin."

The first thing to say about Will Self's book launch is that there weren't any primates there. The novel is called Great Apes, the party venue was Regent's Park zoo, the Monkey House is hardly a banana-throw

away from the Member's Lawn where we stood but, hope as we might, no trace of gibbon, chimp or mandrill interrupted the toing and fro-ing of literary types. Across the patio steps, demure waitresses carried canapétrays full of mini-pizzas,

tiny samosas and lines of amphetamine sulphate no, all right, I made that up. But everywhere you went, people were making awful jokes about planes, lavatories, heroin ("You mean this is a Bring Your Own Drugs party?" a woman asked beside me. "Shouldn't they have said that on the invite?") and Brian Mawhinney, who shopped Will Self to the police. "Is Brian Mawhinney pompous or sanctimonious?" asked John

McVicar, the former desperado, "I rather think the latter". When not conversing like a rural dean, McVicar evinces a nicely oldfashioned line in hatred, especially for the hectoring delivery of politicians (most especially the way Tony Blair says "Look..."). This being the first al fresco launch party of the year, there were babies everywhere, most notably Ms Fernanda Amis (six months, cupid-bow mouth)

who slumbered throughout

the proceedings while her parents Martin and Isabel held court under the trees. Lisa St Aubin de Teran, popularly known as Lisa St Pancras de Traincrash, was there, and Ian McEwan, and Ed Victor the super-agent, and Cyril Connolly's daughter Cressida, and Ian Hargreaves in his Cosa Nostra black shirt, and Maureen Freely and Hugo Williams and Joan Smith ... David Reynolds of Bloomsbury (publisher of Great Apes) was ecstatic about his recent acquisition of a cache of 20,000 letters written by Hunter S Thompson, king of gonzo journalism and Will Self's spiritual godfather. The author himself, six-foot-five in a serious suit, loped about looking as though, on the whole, he'd had enough of media

people and journalists for a while. When toasted by his publisher, Liz Calder, he brandished a copy of the book and said, "This is a moral tract without a conclusion. Work it out for yourselves, cunts." It's puzzling to watch this intelligent and charming man displaying the conviction that he absolutely must live up to the image that the world and his own career have imposed on him.

ast night saw the most controversial bit

of Coming Out on American screens since the arrival of Rosemary's satanic Baby. It was the moment in Ellen, the weekly comedy series, when the eponymous heroine suddenly revealed to the world that she was a lesbian. Everyone in America has known about this revelation for several months; it has been in all the papers and debated briskly on talk shows. In fact it's such a non-revelation that ABC, the television company responsible, had to bolster the episode by pulling in a handful of extra stars (Oprah Winfrey, Demi Moore, kd lang) to guarantee healthy viewing figures. What's more interesting than the sexual orientation of the leading lady. however, is the argy-bargy in the advertising world. According to the Wall Street Journal, the major car companies which would normally advertise in this slot have been fleeing like rabbits before any mention of the L-word. Chrysler, who took the commercial slot in previous episodes of Ellen, said they wanted to avoid a "highly polarised or emotional environment", poor darlings; General Motors wouldn't touch it with a 10foot steering column; Ford made a handbrake turn and skedaddled.

then Volkswagen stepped in. Not only would they accept the dodgy hinterland between the lesbian outpourings, they said, they would take the opportunity to unveil a new advertisement. And now the whole universe of American culture-watchers are pondering what it means. The advert, for a VW Golf GL, shows two laid-back guys at traffic lights, spotting an abandoned old armchair. One of them likes it, stows it in the back of the Golf and they drive off again. Further on, they discover it's horribly smelly. They stop, dump it and drive off. That's it. Does it have some sly association with Ellen's discovery? Are the two chaps gay? Is the battered armchair a symbol of domesticity, to be embraced and then discarded? Or is it an image of sexual experiment, to be tried out (so warm, so squishy, so tufty, so apparently familiar) but found wanting? Only a Media Studies seminar at Berkeley could straighten

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business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Formula One flotation plans stalled

Michael Harrison

Bernie Ecclestone has postponed plans to float his Formula One Grand Prix motor racing business in London and New York this summer and has instructed his advisers to examine the alternative of a private sale.

There are also doubts about the £2.5bn price tag put on the business when the flotation plans first surfaced two months ago. The sale, if it happens, is expected to put a significantly lower value on Formula One.

Mr Ecclestone does not intend structors, led by the Williams his financial advisers, the US in-consideration. Large numbers is thought to have offered them to dispose of a controlling stake team. in the business.

being sold this calendar year are now reckoned to be even. Although flotation is still a candidate, the odds are said to be no more than 50:50 on a public offering as opposed to a pub-

Part of the problem is timing and part of the problem is the fierce resistance to a floration being encountered among a handful of the Grand Prix con-

Mr Ecclestone owns Formula The odds on Formula One One, which has the television rights to the 16 grand prix held each year and beamed to an audience of 400 million viewers. But the teams point out that Formula One would be nothing without their participation and are said to be pressing for a large slice of the action when Mr Ecclestone cashes up.

Were flotation to remain an option this side of the summer break, then Mr Ecclestone and

vestment bank Salomons, of interested parties, ranging would need to press the button in the next week for there to be time to brief analysts, get research reports written and circulated, publish a prospectus and take Formula One on a roadshow of institutional investors on both sides of the At-

That means a flotation is now unlikely to take place until the autumn at the earliest.

from media companies to wealthy individuals, have expressed an interest in buying a stake in Formula One.

Mr Ecclestone is thought to have repaired the rift with the three teams yet to sign up to the so-called Concorde agreement under which the constructors get a share of the television revenues generated by Formula One. Williams, Benetton and Meanwhile, the option of a Tyrell had been refusing to trade sale is being given serious agree terms but Mr Ecclestone

more money without disadvantaging the other teams who have signed up.

However, they remain deeply

unhappy at the prospect of Mr Ecclestone becoming a billionaire from any flotation. Constructors are thought to be insisting they should emerge with the bulk of the share after

the float. They are unhappy with the set-up. full stop. They just think the balance is all wrong here. No one is disputing Bernie's con-

does not give him the right to to come away with most of the spoils," said one observer.

Formula One is one of several Ecclestone companies connected with the sport and earns huge, though undisclosed, revenues from the 16 yearly televised races. These are set to rise. dramatically with the advent of digital pay-television.

In Germany, Mr Ecclestone's company has already done a rights deal with the DF1 chan-

tribution to raising Formula nel which will enable viewers to One's public image, but that select their own camera angle from the cars, using equipment which is manufactured by another Ecclestone company, Formula One Promotions.

The prize, expected to be confirmed later this year, will be a formal pay-per-view alliance with BSkyB.

Mr Ecclestone began to exert his influence on Grand Prix racing in the late 1970s buying the now defunct Brabham

GK

Co-op affair claims Hambros victim

Tom Stevenson and Nigel Cope

Peter Large, the Hambros corporate financier at the heart of the failed £1.2bn takeover bid by Andrew Regan for the Cooperative Wholesale Society. has asked to stand down from the bank while his role is investigated by solicitors Norton Rose. A report on the affair, commissioned by Hambros after discussions over the weekend with the Bank of England. is now expected to be pushed through by the end of the

Hambros said yesterday it had "agreed to a request from Mr Peter Large to be relieved of his executive responsibilities for the time being to enable him to concentrate upon giving full attention to the inquiry being undertaken by Norton Rose".

The withdrawal of Mr Large. which Hambros denied was a suspension of the banker, was part of the continuing fall-out from the Co-op affair which saw attention turning to the role of Schroders in the attempted takeover and the liquidation of Galileo, the vehicle set up for the bid.

Schroders yesterday admitted that three of its fund managers bought shares worth £11.000 in Lanica Trust on their own personal accounts last November, a month before its own smaller company funds made an in- UBS and JP Morgan were vestment in Mr Regan's Guernsey-based investment trust. The bank said it was entirely happy that the three had acted properly in their dealings and denied rumours circulating in the City yesterday that it had

suspended a fund manager. imro, the investment management regulator, would not confirm whether it had started an inquiry into the dealings.

ings in a letter to its institutional investment clients citing the "considerable amount of press coverage" of the CWS bid, some of which had mentioned Schroders as being an investor in Galileo. The bank said it deplored the use of any "illegal or improper practices", adding it was unhappy its name had been associated with such prac-

tices in any way.
It added that: "At no time, either then or subsequently, has Schroders seen any confidential CWS documents." Last week a list of 17 companies, including

 \leq At no time, either then or subsequently, has Schroders seen any confidential **CWS**

documents 9

Goldman Sachs. Hambros, Jupiter International, Lloyds Bank Registrars, Nomura, Price Waterhouse, Société Général, named in court as having received leaked documents.

News of the dealings emerged as Galileo, the vehicle set up by Mr Regan, was put into voluntary liquidation by its shareholders, Lanica, Schroders, stockbroker Killik & Co and the fund manager, Jupiter International. According to Jason Elles. liquidator, Galileo's creditors,

mainly its professional advisers, will be repaid in full the £2m they are owed. There will also be an unspecified return to Galileo's shareholders, who invested £9.6m to cover the due diligence costs of the failed £1.2bn bid. Individual shareholders include David Evans, the Tory MP for Welwyn Hatfield. It is thought that the £600,000 invested in Galileo by Lanica Trust will not be returned.

However, the Co-operative Wholesale Society still intends to pursue Galileo for damages. A spokesman said: "The CWS intends to register its interest with Ernst & Young and will be lodging a contingency claim with them as creditors. The Galileo decision to go into insolvent liquidation is not

surprising."
A spokesman for Schroders confirmed that one of the fund managers who had dealt on their own account was Andrew Brough but declined to name the other two. He said they had complied with internal rules regarding share dealings, buy-ing their shares through the firm and then notifying directors of Schroders Investment Management once it became clear that the funds they managed were likely to make an investment. The acquisition of

115,000 shares in Lanica was approved by an independent group of Schroders directors. At Hambros, the Norton Rose investigation is expected to focus on when details of the deal were passed on to Sir Chips Keswick, the chairman of Hambros who wrote to CWS chief executive Graham Melmoth on Monday 21 April defending the bank's relationship with Mr Regan before pera partner of Ernst & Young, the forming an embarrassing volteface just one week later.



Jazz theme: President Bill Clinton, a musician noted for other achievements, is reputed to be a user of Boosey saxophone reeds, like the great altoist before him, Charlie Parker

Boosey stake sale threatens independence

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

Boosey & Hawkes's independence was thrown into doubt vesterday after its largest sharebolder, the American Carl Fischer music publishing group, said it had put itself up for sale. Under Takeover Panel rules, any single offer for Fischer, which controls 45.3 per cent of Boosey's shares, would trigger a full bid for the British music publisher and instrument maker.

Fischer, which bought into Boosey in 1965 and has seen the value of its investment grow seventeen-fold in the meantime, is understood to have taken the decision to cash in its shareholding following the re-tirement of Hayden Connor, a family member, as chairman of Boosey. At yesterday's closing share price of 822p, up 30p, Fischer's stake would be worth almost £80m.

Although Fischer has in-structed its financial adviser, Crédit Suisse First Boston, to try to maximise proceeds by finding a single buyer for the whole company, including the Boosey holding, it is thought equally likely that it will end up placing the shares with a range of institutional investors.

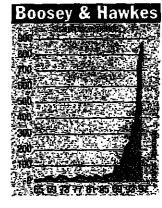
That option, Boosey's preferred outcome, would improve the liquidity of its tightly held shares and maintain its independent stock market listing.

Boosev has been one of the stock market's biggest success stories over the past 10 years. with the value of its shares multiplying eightfold during that period on the back of rapidly growing profits from its instrument-making operations and royalties from its strong pre-tax profits to £7 year to December.

catalogue of serious music composers, including Stravinsky, Bartok and Delius. Its sax reeds have been used by such jazz greats as Charlie Parker as well as musicians more renowned for other achievements, such as President Bill Clinton.

As a result of that rapid growth, the company's shares are highly rated, which it is thought might discourage potential buyers for the whole

On a forward rating of 24. times earnings, the shares



discount much of the company's growth potential and any bidder may be unwilling to pay another premium for control.

Within instrument manufacturers possible bidders include Yamaha of Japan, which although it is the world leader has tended to concentrate on cheaper instruments than Boosey specialises in, and Steinway. The publishing interests might be attractive to a range of buyers, including EMI.

Last month, Boosey announced a 25 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £7.7m for the

London house prices surpass 1989 peak BAT urged to speak out

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Prices in many areas of central London have passed the peak they set in 1989, Nationwide Building Society said yesterday. House prices nationally rose for the fourth month running in April, with the North-South gap widening further.

Philip Sanderson, head of research, said a shortage of homes coming on to the market was driving prices up. Several buyers were competing for any suitable property.

The election campaign had slightly dampened the level of housing market activity, but the property drought was most to blame for the low level of transactions.

In its latest regional analysis, Nationwide reported that house prices in Greater London had climbed 20.6 per cent in the year to the first quarter to an average of £85,378. This compared with a national average increase of 8.6 per cent, and a decline of 0.5 per cent in Scotland.

showed the number of repossessions fell to the lowest level since late 1989 in the first quarter of this year - down 27 per cent. with 14,869 properties repossessed by lenders.

Mr Sanderson said: "As yet average house price up to there are few signs the rest of £57,406. This took the year on

would eventually tempt more sellers into the market, but it was difficult to predict when. The national index increased

the country will see the strong year change down from 9.7 per

Separate official figures price gains recently recorded in cent in March to 8.9 per cent. first-time buyers in London the South-east." Higher prices The Halifax's house price index, were being forced to move due today, is likely to show a similar April increase, although it is recording a somewhat lower annual inflation rate. Halifax fig-0.4 per cent in April, with the ures have also been showing prices rising faster in London than anywhere else.

US growth highest for nine years

Davis Usborne

The US economy grew at an astonishing 5.6 per cent in the first quarter of this year, fuelled notably by a near-doubling in the rate of spending growth by consumers and a surge in business inventory baild-up.

The figures far exceeded expectations on Wall Street -Something near 4 per cent had been forecast - and represented the highest rate of economic expansion in the US for more than nine years. It also showed last quarter of last year when growth hit 3.8 per cent.

"Job growth is good. Real income is rising. Sentiment is high. Unemployment is the lowest in years. Times are good for American consumers," com-mented Allen Sinai, economist at Primark Decision Economics.

The data is bound to rekindle fears of overheating of the economy and a return of inflation. It will also strengthen the camp that believes another inafter retreating mildly in the first quarter of 1995.

a strong acceleration since the wake of the report's release, both bond prices and equities began once more to pick up in

New York yesterday. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up by around 70 points, building on the remarkable 179-point gain achieved on Tuesday.

Investors may be troubled, however, by hints of inflationary dangers in yesterday's GDP growth report. The key price measure showed an advance of 2.7 per cent for the quarter, the terest rate rise is inevitable. But strongest rise seen since the

downmarket because of the jump in prices - something that might start to improve the saleability of property at the bottom end of the market.

Mortgage lenders are keen to downplay the idea that there is a housing boom. Reacting to Bank of England figures earlier in the week showing a slight dip in new lending in March, the Council of Mortgage Lenders said this proved the housing market recovery was steady rather than booming.

The lenders' argument that the housing recovery is not heading for a boom because it is patchy is unlikely to entirely convince those economists who think it is stoking up inflationary pressure. The latest figures for na-

tional income by region show the West Midlands was the fastest-growing part of the UK during the 1990s.

GDP per capita was highest in Greater London in 1995, at £12,503.

over US insurance cover

Magnus Grimond

BAT Industries is facing criticism from one of its institutional shareholders for its failure to comment on a claim that the potentially enormous legal claims resulting from its tobacco activities are substantially covered by insurance. Neil Woodford of Perpetual.

the Henley-based investment group with a £120m investment in the group, yesterday called on Martin Broughton, chief executive, to clarify the issue following a report last week by Schroder Securities suggesting "comprehensive general liability insurance coverage probably exists for a variety of tobacco-related claims". deal to settle claims made by state governments and personal

A \$300bn (£185bn), 25-year injury litigants has recently been mooted in the US. But it had been thought the tobacco

index Latest Yr Ago Mest Flys

155.4+2.6pc 150.9 18 May

109.7+2.6pc 107.0 25 May

the full cost as calls on general liability insurance policies had been excluded by the wording

of the contracts.

But Mr Woodford said there were clear historic precedents from cases involving pollution that attempts by insurance companies to write comprehensive exclusion clauses into policies were not always upheld by the courts.

"The perception of the investment community is that there is an enormous black hole in relation to tobacco liabilities. The question I want to know is how much insurance coverage there is in place to cover a hit from product liability claims? I believe [BAT's] shares are substantially undervalued. I believe there is a lot more the company could do to realise that undervaluation,"

But his demands, at an ana-

companies would have to bear lysts' presentation of BAT's first-quarter results, fell on deaf ears yesterday. Mr Broughton described the issue as "a highly complex subject, both factually and legally".

Both the types of cases and the issues vary from state to state, involves many different insurers, over many years and with different wording in each.
"In typical US fashion, it is certain to require litigation to

clarify that and I do not want to prejudice our position by commenting further on that." The comments came as BAT reported that pre-tax profits just crept ahead to £591m in the first three months of the year, from £590m before. Mr Broughton said the group was still interested in an acquisition to boost its financial services business in

the independent financial intermediaries market, but nothing was imminent. Investment column, page 26

	STOCK MARKET	S
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1361	600	19000 - Daniel - 19000
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adices							
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FTSE 250	4498.70		-0.2	4729,40	4469.40	3.57	
FTSE 350	2168.70	+0.30	+0.0°	2194.30	2017.90	3.63	
FTSE SmallCap	2295.46	+2.38	+0.1	2374.20	2178.29	3.05	
FTSE AU-Share	2135:31	+0.43	+0.0	2163.94	1989.78	3.59	
New York *	7021.83	+59.80	+0,9	7085.16	5032.94	1.82	
Takyo	19151.12	+480.75	÷2.6	19446.00	17303.85	0.861	
Hong Kong	12903.30	+302.88	+24	13868.24	12055.17	3.331	
Frankfurt	3438.07	+54.88	+1.6	3460.59	2848.77	1,591	

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lapan	0.56	0.81	2.35	2.51		<u>. </u>
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INTEREST RATES

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Oil Brent \$ 18.40 +0.19 19.33

CURRENCIES

White House pushes for tobacco talks

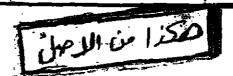
The White House was last night due to resume talks attempting to hammer out an all-inclusive \$300bn (£185bn) settlement of tobacco litigation in the US. A spokesman said Bruce Lind-

sey, a Presidential aide, had scheduled "several, multiple tohacco-related meetings" that President Bill Clinton has already

Meanwhile, a Mississippi state judge in a \$650m smokingrelated death case was yesterday deciding whether to step down following allegations from the tobacco industry's lawyers.

They have complained that the defence was not properly represented when Judge Joe would focus on last week's US

Landrum twice met lawyers for
district court ruling that the plaintiff. The case involves government could regulate to- the death of Burl Buder, a barbacco sales and marketing, but ber from Laurel, Mississippi, not promotion and advertising. whom it is alleged died from "second-hand" cigarette smoke said he will appeal against the limits on government regulatory powers imposed by the court.



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'Did he know, as chief executive of Hambros, that the bid for the Co-op was being constructed on the basis of stolen

documents, and

if he didn't know,

why not?"

The key questions about Sir Chips and Regan

an Sir Chips Keswick hope to survive on the basis of stolen documents, and if he either as chief executive of Hambros or didn't know, why not? as a director of the Court of the Bank of England? Since the question is being much asked both in and outside the City in the wake of the Andrew Regan flasco, it seems reasonable to try and answer it. The second part is the easier one to address. Even if the Bank felt minded to get rid of him, it could not do so for the time being unless he is shown to be of "hunatic or unsound mind", has been "continuously absent for six months", gone hankrupt or is convicted of an offence. So speaks the 1946 Bank of England Act. Sir Chips may be many things, but lunatic or of unsound mind he is not.

He could, of course, be prevailed upon to resign, but even this seems unlikely, at least until the outcome of the Norton Rose inquiry into Hambros' role in the affair is known. While there is a theoretical conflict of interest in his position, since the Bank of England is Hambros' ultimate regulator, this is satisfied by virtue of the fact that the Bank has accepted that the Norton Rose inquiry

is for the moment sufficient action.

If the findings of the investigation are adverse, then plainly Sir Chips' position at the Bank of England would be in jeopardy; he would also almost certainly have to go at Hambros. As always in these affairs, the key questions are: did Sir Chips know, and if he didn't, should he have known? Did he know, as chief executive of Hambros, that have been to Old. Why, two of them even the bid for the Co-op was being constructed signed the business leaders' open letter to know, as chief executive of Hambros, that

We can only presume that the answer to the first question is that he didn't know, for up until the time of his public apology, Sir Chips had repeatedly backed his client and said that everything was above board. The more intriguing question is whether he should have known. Could his apparent failure to get to the bottom of these matters in any way be considered negligent? This is much more difficult territory. It is already clear that this is not an open and shut case. that although Mr Regan and some immediate aides knew where the information came from, others, some of whom received only summaries of what was in the documents, did not.

All these things are matters of fine judgement. Like the rest of us, Norton Rose is not going to find it easy to call. What is certainly true is that Sir Chips acted honourably and quickly once he realised the full extent of what had happened. He deserves some credit for that at least.

What is also certainly true is that even if he emerges reasonably well from the report, he, and most of the rest of the Court of the Bank of England, are not going to have their contracts renewed by Labour. All 18 directors of the Court are government appointments. Most of them will find themselves as unacceptable to New Labour as they would

the Daily Mail saying Labour couldn't be trusted. As their contracts expire, virtually all the non execs, Sir Chips included, will be cleared out, to be replaced by more Labourleaning people. In the absence of lunacy or legislation, however, it's going to take some time. Sir Chips' contract doesn't expire until 28 February 2001.

De Silguy spoke the truth about G3

Rule Britannia! Britannia rules the waves! Britons never, never, never shall be excluded from the G7!

As a rallying cry, it leaves a lot to be desired. Yet politicians of all flavours rushed to condemn Yves-Thibault de Silguy when he suggested that the UK will be squeezed out of the inner circle of international economic management after the start of the single currency. John Major accused the EU's monetary affairs commissioner of being "absurd and arrogant". Tony Blair said

it was just not going to happen.

Coming at the tail of an election campaign awash with symbols of bulldogs and lions, this jingoistic reaction should have come as no surprise. But the two party leaders are both mistaken. Mr de Silguy, although French, was neither arrogant nor wrong. The club of rich industrial nations, a completely informal grouping, will inevitably evolve into a G3 after the start of the single currency.

In fact, there is already an inner cabinet consisting of the US, Japan and Germany. Theirs are the world's three main reserve currencies. When the euro exists, there will be even less need to pay attention to fringe currencies like sterling. It will be more important to include Russia - likely to be formally invited to turn the G7 into a G8 at this summer's summit in Denver, than the UK. Or is that going to be a G4 if Canada, Italy and the UK are to be left out?

Britain's influence will be squeezed from below, too, as a growing number of big, newly industrialised economies such as Korea China, Brazil and even our former colony, India, take their place on the international stage. These increasingly important eco-nomic powers are already playing a bigger role in the International Monetary Fund and the Bank for International Settlements.

They are likely to want their own G number. The veteran City economist Stephen Lewis at London Bond Broking points out that the geometry of international meetings has always been variable. The G7 was a G5 until the Italians made a big enough fuss about having overtaken the British economy in size. In practical terms, he argues, it makes no difference - the politicians discuss what they have to discuss with whoever they want or need to on the circuit of international meetings. Flag-waving over G7 membership will not by itself give the UK influence in the tions between Britain and Europe, but he speaks the truth and his remarks highlight a key element of the debate over monetary union. If we stay out, we'll be marginalised, not just in Europe, but in the world too.

Can Ecclestone really own this sport?

Formula One was always going to be a problematic stock market flotation. Its delay raises questions about whether it was ever really possible. What is Formula One and who actually owns it? Bernie Ecclestone is sole owner of the company called Formula One, he organises the events, markets them and sells the TV rights. But he didn't invent the sport, nor does he own it.

Without the teams, or constructors as they are known in the jargon, Formula One would be nothing. They, after all, are the people that stage the crashes. A good number of them said, "Over our dead bodies", when they first read that Mr Ecclestone was planning to capitalise on his position through a 2.5bn stock market flotation.

Some problems have been overcome, A new agreement has been hammered out covering division of TV revenue. But this hasn't solved the core issue, which is ownership of the sport itself. Over the years Mr Ecclestone has built himself a very powerinner circle. Mr de Silgny may have been unwisc to irritate matters yet further in relacontrols it. But is it really his to sell?

GKN deal rules out bid for Vickers

Michael Harrison

GKN, the automotive, industrial services and defence group, yesterday unveiled an agreed £352m takeover of a US supplier of metal parts for the car. home appliance and power tool industries.

The deal is the first big acquisition since CK Chow took over as chief executive from Sir David Lees last year and would appear to dash hopes of GKN making a bid for rival engi-

neering group Vickers.

GKN is paying \$570m in cash for Sinter Metals, which is based in Cleveland, Ohio, made up of \$386m for the equity and \$184m for the assumption of debt. The deal will turn GKN into the world's largest supplier of precision pressed powder metal parts with annual sales of

The acquisition will be fundand Mr Chow said he expected it to be earnings-enhancing in the first year.

Sinter Metals is the world's largest independent manufacturer of powder metal parts with America and Europe employ-

ing more than 3,000 people. The total market for these kind of parts is put at £2.8bn a year and growing. They are increasingly being substituted for forged steel, cast iron and other metalworked parts because they are cheaper to produce, lighter, stronger and easier to press into complex shapes.

Demand is growing at a rate of 11 per cent a year in the US and 6 per cent in Europe. About 70 per cent of Sinter's output goes into the automotive sector. The rest goes into the white goods, power tool and lawn and garden products industry. The US company will be combined with GKN's own powder metallurgy interests in the UK and Italy, enabling it to achieve a global presence.

GKN said it had received acceptances from shareholders ed from GKN's own resources representing some 43 per cent of Sinter's stock. The offer is expected to close late this month. News of the deal lifted GKN shares 380 to a close of 9490 but

Vickers dropped 3p to 212p as analysis concluded that GKN

18 production sites in North had probably used up too much

of its firepower buying Sinter. GKN had £528m in cash reserves at the end of last year but faces a \$600m settlement in the US after a court ruled in favour of franchisees of GKN exhaust systems which alleged misuse of advertising levies by GKN.

GKN has made a £270m provision in its 1996 accounts to cover the potential cost of the claim and an appeal is under

Although analysts generally welcomed the deal there was some caution about it increasing its exposure to a highly cyclical sector such as the car industry when sales were stagnant in mature markets such as the US and Europe, leaving margins under pressure.

One would have thought

GKN may have wanted to diversify its businesses a little and become less cyclical," said

Other than car parts, its main businesses are the helicopter maker Westland, the Chep pallet division and industrial ser-



Big deal: The purchase Is GKN's largest acquisition since CK Chow took over as chief executive last year

IN BRIEF

Greenhills earns AIM rebuke

The Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange said it had decided to censure Greenhills because it "failed to make timely and appropriate announcements or disclosures". AlM said the the company's failure to disclose certain information gave "a significantly misleading impression about the company's financial position". It said the lapses were related to the opening, development and closing of Thunder Drive, certain agreements and matters disclosed in the company's admission document or which were subsequently announced which were not advanced, and the financial position of the company. It said the company lodged a notice of appeal, but then went into receivership and, eventually, liquidation and the appeal has not been pursued. AIM said it had not censured any of the company's directors and its censure "should not be taken as implying criticism of any director's conduct".

French unemployment declines

Unemployment in France fell by 4,800 in March, the second monthly decline in succession. There was a reduction in youth unemployment, more than offsetting increases in joblessness amongst the over-50s and those out of work for more than a year. But the fall was not enough to reduce the jobless rate from its post-war high of 12.8 per cent. With signs that growth in France is picking up, most economists expect further, politically welcome reductions in unemployment later this year without ruling out the possibility of short-term increases.

Kvaerner Energy to axe 137 jobs

Kvaerner Energy said it advised trade union officials, management and staff that there will be 137 job losses within its thermal power division at Clydebank in Scotland. Chris Packard, president of Kvaerner Energy, said: "Continuing intense competition in the market-place and a lack of new orders has forced the company to make this decision. It is hoped that the total number of compulsory redundancies might be reduced by the transfer of some staff to Kvaerner Energy's sister company in Oslo."

Wickes nets £7.5m for continental sale

Wickes, the troubled DIY group that was rocked last year by a £50m accounting scandal, has agreed to sell its continental subsidiaries. Wickes BV, Wickes NV and Wickes France SARL to Bricorama, a French company for around £7.5m cash in total. The company said the proceeds, which will be subject to final adjustment based on the audited net assets at completion, will be used to repay bank indebtedness. In addition, Bricorama will be assuming £6.4m of finance leases on the balance sheet of Wickes Continental. After expenses, the transaction is expected to result in a reduction of approximately £12.5m in the consolidated net indebtedness of Wickes. The companies being sold operate 39 do-it-yourself stores in The Netherlands, Belgium and France under the Wickes brand and concept.

Aston Villa float raises £12.6m

Aston Villa, the Premier League football club, has raised around £12.58m in its public share offering for its flotation on the stock market. The chub said 454,545 ordinary shares previously placed with institutions were subject to recall to satisfy applications from the public at £11 a share. A total of 7,708 applications were received for 688,780 shares. Applications from full-time employees amounting to 19,620 shares would be allocated in full, as would requests from season ticket-holders for up to 200 shares.

Hiscox moves to oust individual names

Another leading figure at Lloyd's of London has applied to the insurance market's ruling council for permission to remove individual directors

from his syndicates. The move by Robert Hiscox. former deputy chairman of Lloyd's, comes hard on the beels of a similar push to remove names by John Charman, the insurance market's deputy chairman.

Representatives of names

Hiscox Syndicates to oust them and are worried about the future role of sole traders in the 300-year-old insurance market. The Lloyd's Names Associa-

tion Working Party (LNAWP) said Mr Hiscox and Mr Charman were part of a concerted effort to rid the insurance market of its 10,000 remaining names and replace them with corporate capital. Chris Stockwell, chairman of LNAWP, said: "Mr Hiscox said names were sheep to be sheared. Now he Representatives of names seems intent on giving them are angry about the move by their final haircut."

Although technically diffi-

cult to implement, Abbey Na-

tional managed to buy National & Provincial Building Society 18

months ago against the initial

opposition of the target's board.

are celebrating windfalls from

building society conversions

but consumers could end up

paying dearly for their short-

The Consumers' Association

says the societies which were

preparing to convert were al-

ready charging more for mort-

gages than those determined to

stay mutual: "Consumers with

Nationwide would have paid

£220 less interest on a £60,000

loan than with Alliance &

Leicester over 12 months, £228 less than with Woolwich and

The BBA fired back: "What-

competition among other prov-

iders will sustain consumer

rate comparisons are a relatively

for customers, covering a nar-

term financial gain."

Which? says: "Many people

Mr Hiscox played down the significance of his application, saying no decision had been made on whether to buy out the . names. He wanted approval from the Lloyd's council so his managed syndicates, which are in the throes of being merged, could proceed quickly should a buyout be decided. "We do not want to be hand-

cuffed. At the moment we have no such shuvout intentions. but we do not rule it out in future," said Mr Hiscox, who looks after the affairs of syndicates 33, 625 and 52.

He said he was in two minds as to the advantages and disadvantages of names versus corporate capital. There were savings to be made if the names' system of annual ventures was abolished and it would be much easier to have one major shareholder rather than hundreds of small ones, he believed.

But, Mr Hiscox said: "Ultimately we feel even-handed about this. We could run our business more cheaply [without names] but then we would be putting an awful lot of [our] money at risk."

Mr Hiscox said that in his former capacity as deputy chairman he had introduced a range of policies that greatly benefited individual investors: "It was the value group which I chaired which introduced security of tenure for names and pre-emption rights, which led to the auctions of Lloyd's capacity."

The reference to sheep was made in a personal letter to a friend, Mr Hiscox said. He was quoting someone else and was pointing out that some names. like other investors, could make disastrous personal decisions. | mainly customer services.

BA drops division spin-off project

Michael Harrison

British Airways yesterday scrapped plans to spin off its engineering division and sell a stake in the business to outside investors amid mounting fears that it was pushing the concept Lathigra

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of a "virtual airline" too far. Bob Ayling, BA's chief ex-ecutive, said the plan to turn the engineering department into a limited company had been postponed until at least 2000 unless there was a radical restructuring of the industry as a whole.

A spokesman said that while anxieties among the 9,300strong workforce had been a fac-tor, BA had decided to postpone the plan because market conditions were not right.

However, BA is pressing ahead with a programme to streamline the engineering division. This will involve the sale of its wheels and brakes and landing gear overhaul units to private buyers, the establishment of the parts supply operation as a profit centre, the outsourcing of its information technology functions and a £20m investment in a new pneumatics and

hydraulics workshop. "Achieving these improve-ments will satisfy our customers and allow us to sub-contract less aircraft engineering services," said Mr Ayling. "This will provide the job security we all

"There are no plans at this stage to seek buyers for any other parts of engineering nor to invite outside investors in the

overall business." The aim of the business efficiency programme launched last year by BA is to save £1bn from its costs. The plan will involve 5,000 job cuts but BA has pledged to take on a similar number of staff in other areas.

Banks attack 'Which' report

Britain's high street banks yesterday mounted a furious preemptive assault on a report to be published today by the Consumers' Association that claims consumers will get a worse deal on mortgages and savings because of the spate of building society conversions.

The British Bankers' Association's pre-emptive strike, entitled Mutuality Myths, claimed the Consumers' Association's conclusions were the "result of a too-narrow perspective". Tim Sweeney, director-gen-

eral of the BBA, said: "Beware the fallacy that competition is decreased by building society

The report in Which? mag-azine argues that consumers will pay higher rates for mortgages and reap lower rates on savings from building societies that £210 less than with Halifax." convert to banks because banks have to pay dividends to ever the fate of the mutuals, shareholders.

The Consumers' Association is alarmed by the conversions of choice. The report's interest the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock crude measure of performance building societies this year. It also warns that the ever- row period and a narrow prodshrinking mutual sector, headed uct range."

warns BG by Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley, could be further squeezed by hostile takeovers.

British Gas warned yesterday that the introduction of full competition in the domestic gas market next year could be jeonardised unless the Monopolies & Mergers Commission inquiry into its pipeline arm TransCo gave it long-term regulatory stability, writes Michael Harrison.

the renamed BG, at the company's annual shareholders meeting in Birmingham. The company was referred to the MMC last October after it reproposed by the industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas, claiming they could result in 10,000 job losses and a £400m

The MMC is due to report by the end of next month, meaning the decision on the future of the business will almost certainly be taken by a Labour gov-

Mr Varney told shareholders: "It is essential for this MMC inquiry to provide TransCo with long-term regulatory clarity and stability, which is vital for the successful implementation of full domestic competition by the

Market at risk. for the year ended 31 December 1996

The warning came from David Varney, chief executive of fused to accept price controls cut in annual cash flow.

ernment

Summary of Accounts PORT OF LONDON Balance Sheet Profit and Loss Account 1996 1996 1995 £m £m 28.0 27.3 Fixed assets: 27.1 24.2 24.7 Operating expenditure 26.4 Tangible assets Operating profit 0.9 Port of London Properties Ltd Group 0.7 Net interest 13.4 4.4 Dividends receivable Stock redemption fund 9.5 9.4 Repayment of 47.1 48.5 (4.4) 13.0 11.2 Government grants <u>(8.9</u>) Net current asset 60.1 59.7 Profit on ordinary 1.6 Amounts falling due after - activities before taxation more than one year: Taxation 0.3 10.2 10.2 Loans 1.6 2.8 3.0 Profit for the year Other amounts Transfer to stock Reserves: (0.1) 13.4 redemption fund Revaluation 9.4 9.5 Stock redemption fund 24.2 <u>22.7</u> Profit and loss Transfer to profit and 59.7 60.1 loss account reserve 1.5 Cash Flow Statement 2.1 Increase/(decrease) in cash G.P. ELLIS

SIR BRIAN SHAW Chairman

D.J. JEFFERY Chief Financial Officer Chief Executive

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The above is an extract from the published Accounts of the Port of London Authority for the year ended 31 December 1996 which have been delivered to The Secretary of State for Transport

COMES OF THE REPORT AND ALCOUNTS 19% CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT. PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY, DEVON HOUSE, SILHI ST. KATHARINE'S WAY, LONDON ET FLB. PRICE (5.0) : when ınge

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Murdoch digital consortium could be worth £1.5bn

Michael Harrison

British Digital Broadcasting, the consortium formed by BSkyB, Granada and Carlton to bid for the licence to broadcast digital terrestrial television. could be worth up to £1.5bn, according to a research report published today.

The report, by brokers Henderson Crosthwaite, says that the lion's share of the spoils over the 12-year period of the concession will go to Rupert Mur-doch's BSkyB if the consortium wins the right to begin broad-casting the 30-channel service next year.

Although each of the partners in BDB has the same 33 per cent stake, the report estimates that the three licences on offer would add £1.1bn to the value of BSkyB against only £230m for Granada and £178m for Carlton. This equates to 64p a share

for BSkyB, 27p for Granada and 31p for Carlton. The rival bidder for the

licences is Digital Television Network, a subsidiary of the US cable operator International Cable Tel. Britain's third biggest cable television company. The report values DTN at £600m. The three licences or "multi-

plexes" as they are known, will carry 30 channels. Half will be existing free BBC. ITV and Channel 4 channels and half will be pay channels. The Independent Television Commission is due to award the licences in late May or early June and the new service is expected to start in the middle of next year. The set-top boxes needed to receive digital television are initially expected to cost £300-£500 although this could eventually fall to £200

Mathew Horsman, media analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite and the author of the report, said

succeed. BDB is more likely to ensure its success than the rival Digital Television Network." It is open to the ITC to split the award between the two bidders, although Henderson Crosthwaite thinks this is unlikely because of the financial risks of having two competing operators providing just 30 channels. "Based on our comparison of the two bids, we believe the best outcome for the development of DIT would be an all-out win for British Digital Broadcasting," Mr

Horsman added. The report forecasts that both bidders would break even in 2004 when their funding requirement peaks at £360m for BDB and £730m for DTN. It forecasts that the number of subscribers will rise from just under 600,000 in 1999, the first full year of operation, to nearly 3.4 million in 2009, the last year of the concession.

that although BSkvB's dominant

nosition in BDB constituted a

risk to competition, this was out-

weighed by the need to select a

consortium that would make a

success of the new medium.

offering just 30 channels, will

face competition from digital satellite and digital cable (200

channels). Therefore it must

have well-financed backers with

proven programming if it is to

Digital terrestrial broadcasting,

BDB would make a £95m loss on revenues of £103m in 1999, turning into a profit of £78m on turnover of £974m in 2009. DTN is forecast to make a much bigger loss of £243m in year one but a profit of £430m in the last year



Terrestrial TV contender: Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB would

BAT is swimming against the tide

To any other circumstances, BAT Industries' tobacco to insurance THE INVESTMENT COLUMN operations would be dream businesses to be in. The group combines

strong cash flow with growing markets. Even tobacco, a declining market in America and Europe, can still notch up double-digit growth rates in developing areas of the world like the Far East. The problem is the tide in the West

has begun to turn in favour of the antismoking lobby, culminating in the revelation that negotiations in the US could lead to the industry paying \$300bn over 25 years in settlement of personal injury claims and medical bills. The companies are also facing the prospect that their main product could soon be regulated as an addictive drug by the US Food and Drug Administration.

nouncement of a marginal £1m increase in first-quarter pre-tax profits to £591m caused few surprises among analysts.

The shares dipped 3p to 521p.
Lord Caims, chairman, reiterated last week's warning that the 1997 results increase sales by 18 per cent and would be depressed by the strong profits by 23 per cent, which now pound, which shaved £23m from the represent 35 per cent of the total. quarterly figures on translation alone. Analysis suggested the full-year effect could be as much as £120m with unquantifiable effects on export sales.

Such things are occupational hazards for BAT and there were plenty of signs yesterday that the underlying business remains as strong as ever. Tobacco profits up from £355m to £363m would have shown a decent 8 per cent rise but for a £22m hit taken for the future closure

of a factory in Berlin.

The only fly in the ointment was signs that competition has hotted up in the US, with Philip Morris increasing the size and duration of discounts offered to retailers. BAT's US operation, Brown & Williamson, saw its market share slip, but most of the decline was due to the loss of brands it was forced to sell by regulators in the wake of the takeover of American Tobacco.

Financial services, principally encompassing the Farmers insurance group in the US, Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, were unexciting. The key to BAT remains a settlement of the interminable US litigation, which is now set to spread to the UK. Tobacco share prices soared when the \$300bn figure first surfaced last month, indicating the prize waiting to be grasped. Although \$300bn is clearly a big sum, it is only equivalent to around 60 cents on a typical packet of US cigarettes.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd believes that BAT without the legal threat could be worth at least 700p more on today's price.

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

BAT Industries: At a glance

Warket value: £16.2bm, store price 522p

1995

Full year

Recent events have edged the group closer to unlocking that value, while the current price is underpinned by a lowly forward multiple of 10, assuming profits of £2.67bn this year. Investors should hold the shares but not their breath.

David Brown motors ahead

Il three divisions at David Brown Group, the gears to axles engi-With problems like that, it is little
wonder the group's figures command
less attention from the stock market

Cent advance in pre-tax profits to than they used to. Yesterday's an- £18.2m, before another £1m of reorganisation costs taken to cover busi-

nesses acquired during the period.

The inclusion of the David Brown family businesses acquired the previous year helped the industrial gears division

By contrast, it was mainly thanks to efficiency improvements that the industrial gearboxes and axles operation saw profits advance 13 per cent.

rading profit his quarter (%)

Pirist quarter 1996

The division, which accounts for close to half the group's profits, should see further growth in the current year on the back of new orders and acqui-

Meanwhile, the pumps division-which supplies the world-wide oil industry, is benefiting from the continuing trend in developing economies towards local refining of imported crude. Profits rose 23 per cent, but pumps remains the smallest division, accounting for just 14 per cent of profits.

The group counteracted the surge in sterling against continental currencies in the second half of the year by increased efficiency and increased sourcing outside the UK, Chris Cook, the chairman, said yesterday.

The UK accounts for about 60 per cent of output, but less than half the overseas sales are now met by exports from the UK.

European markets were static last year and are not likely to show much improvement in the current year, but they account for only 20 per cent of sales. About a quarter of all the business last year was booked in the despite a more sluggish 5 per cent Asia Pacific region and Africa, which

Share price (pence)

1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997

1996 1997

Flirst quarter

grew by 25 per cent. The only real cloud on the horizon is the potential loss of the Adeo tractor axles contract in 1998, and the immediate outlook

SIL YOU ME

is bright.
The shares up 10.5p to 200.5p, stand on just 10-times prospective earnings if profits hit £19.5m this

year. As manufacturing investments go,

the share look reasonable value.

Grampian proves doubters wrong

rampian Holdings has not been too popular with some of its investors of late. There had been hopes that the sprawling Scottish miniconglomerate, with interests spread across sheep vaccines, woolly jumper retailing, whisky warehousing and landfill tips, might start to introduce a bit more focus. But instead of selling its minority stake in Edinburgh Woollen Mills, the knitwear chain, as expected, the company conducted a spectacular U-turn last September and bought the remaining shares in the retail group for £69m. This upset some institutions but, judging by yes terday's results, it may be that the

Grampian management were right.
Though the figures were confused by a change of year-end and the Ed-inburgh Woollen Mills deal, profits for the 13 months to January were 31 per cent higher at £13.7m than the calen-

dar year 1995. EWM was one of the better performers in the group, contributing £5.6m to group profits, including the period when it was still an associate. Stripping out new openings, sales rose by an impressive 12 per cent and the company is planning an aggressive opening programme of 20 stores a year for the next five years. The new stores will be mainly in the south of England, in county and market towns.

While this beefing up of the division goes on, the City is still hoping for disposals to revitalise the shares, which have been treading water for some time. The Patrick sportswear subsidiary was sold last year for £3m and other disposals in the branded leisure division are expected. Given the market for branded sports

clothing, Grampian would be selling into a buoyant market. Yet the shares, 3p higher at 129.5p yesterday, are still a long way off the 180p level reached

On current year forecasts of £23m they trade on a forward rating of just

Cadbury reveals US soft drinks figures

Nigei Cope City Correspondent

Cadbury Schweppes yesterday announced its first ever sales figures for its US soft drinks business after pressure from the City to follow similar reporting from od last year and we are enrivals PepsiCo and Coca-Cola. couraged by these results.

The figures for the first manter of 1996 showed that while US soft drinks market behind sales of Dr Pepper rose by 5 per cent, sales of the Seven Up brand fell by 2 per cent and other brand sales declined by a cent rise in earnings from Pepsi-other brand sales declined by a cent rise in earnings from Pepsisimilar figure.

The company said that Sev-Another factor has been aggressive marketing of rival brand Sprite by Coca Cola.

Commenting on the figures. One analyst John Brock, managing director of Cadbury Schweppes' hever-weren't good enough after the of Cadbury Schweppes' bever-ages division, said: "Overall, our plus 1 per cent volume growth performance in US soft drinks is better than in the same peri-

Coca Cola and Pepsi. Its figures followed an 8 per nounced on Tuesday. The rise was led by strong sales of US en Up sales were affected by the drinks. Case sales grew by 6 per delisting of the drink by certain cent, boosted by double digit Coca Cola and Pepsi bottlers. growth from Mountain Dew and solid growth from Pepsi.

Cadbury Schweppes shares slid back 10p to 513.5p on the

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MENCHAY A CARE & WESTER COMPANY

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Il alle are adject to a Usy communication.

Pepsi report on Tuesday."

The Americas account for 60 per cent of Cadbury's soft drinks sales and 30 per cent of group turnover.

In March John Sunderland chief executive, announced a 16 per cent increase in full year profits to £592m. The company then said that it could afford a £1bn-£2bn acquisition following the £623m sale of its stake in Coca Cola Schweppes Beverages.

Cadbury increased its advertising spend from £681m to £738m last year with a large amount of the increase put behind the Seven Up brand.

Tadpole

to raise

£2.3m for

rescue

Tadpole Technology, the former and troubled Cambridge-based

maker of lap-top computers,

yesterday announced a rescue placing of shares and a rights ssue, raising a total of £2.26m. The announcement of the

cash-raising exercise yesterday

accompanied news of a 50 per

cent increase in losses to £2.46m

for the six months to the end of

Raising extra funds will be costly. The 20 million shares be-ing placed and the one-for-five

rights issue at 10p will cost the

company £250,000 in fees.
It warned that without the

proposed fund-raising it would

be unable to continue trading.

Bernard Hulme, chief executive, intends to buy 500,000 shares in the placing and Graham Brown.

a director, will buy 150,000. Cost-saving measures have

a non-executive director.

Clifford German

Recycling Services profits up

ling Services reported an increase from £287,000 to £412,000 in pre-tax profits for the six months to February. Interim dividend is 0.5p, covered comfortably by earnings per share, which rose from 1.6p to 1.9p. Colin Phipps, chairman, said: "A number of significant content of the content of

Deltron Electronics buys Danish firm

Deltron Electronics has bought Conelec, a private company engaged in the distribution of electronic components and based in Denmark, for a maximum £2.46m. Deltron said the initial consideration of £1.53m would be satisfied by the issue of 133,780 ordinary shares and £1.33m cash. A further consideration of up to £930,000 will be paid in cash.

Whitchurch Group dives into loss

Whitchurch Group dived from profits of £597,000 to losses of £4.2m in the year to 2 January. Loss per share was 28.91p, compared with earnings of 2.61p. Whitchurch said it had bought Horbury Meat Supplies and Horbury Meat (Wholesale), a catering meat supplies business based in Huddersfield, for £300,000. In the year to December, Horbury made pre-tax profits of £77,000. Richard Thompson, chairman of Whitchurch, said that having improved productivity in the catering and food service businesses, all divisions were now trading in line with expectations.

Dolphin Packaging buys food tray maker

Dolphin Packaging has acquired Food Containers for £2.25m in cash. The company said the acquisition should be earnings enhancing from the outset. Food Containers is a private company, which was founded in 1983 and which makes plastic food trays and punnets. In the year to June 1996, Food Containers made a pre-tax profit of £321,473 on turnover of £2.63m.

Chemex acquires Eurolabs

Chemex International has agreed to buy Eurolabs from Environmed for £135,000 in cash. In the year to 30 September 1996, Eurolabs recorded a pre-tax loss of £16,000 on sales of £437,000. Eurolabs is a contract service provider in the areas of microbiology, analytical chemistry, toxicology and biodegradability.

James Dickie pays £1.3m for AP Pressings

ì		I ———————					
Ì	been introduced to reduce the company's break-even point.	Company Results					
ĺ	and it is also concentrating its efforts on selling key-board	}	Throover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
l	technology to the network com-	Angio-Eastern (P)	T2.44m (14.8m)	7.1m (9.1&m)	9.7p (17.3p)	5.65p (5 <u>.14p)</u>	
į	puting industry.	Oliver Ashworth (F)	78.56m (63.14m)	2.91m (2.09m)	11,26p (8.17p)	1. 0 p	
ļ	The moves to get its finances	BAT Industries (Q1)	5.77bn (5.62bn)	591m (590m)	11.3p (11.4p)		
ĺ	on an even keel, though, are be- ing made against a backdrop of	David Brown (F)	181,8m (161,2m)	17.18m (14.11m)	17.7p (15.3p)	8.4g (7.6g)	
i	plunging sales. In the half-year,	Grandian Holdings (F)	203.7m (146.9m)	13 71m (10.48m)	11,51p (10,24p)	6.56p (5.99p)	
Į	turnover dived by 44 per cent	Melperney (F)	ir39.1m (ir33.7m)	lr1.2m (lr353,000)	13,47p (11,16p)	U)	
I	to just £7.3m.	Langdons Foods (F)	5.13m (3.05m)	-235,000 (156,000)	-24p (17p)	0 04p (0.10p)	
ĺ	Tadpole also plans to	Life Humbers (I)	284,796 (-)	-351,002 (-)	-7.02p (~)		
1	strengthen its boardroom. It is hunting for a non-executive	Recycling Services (I)	10.79m (8.49m)	412,000 (287.000)	1.Sp (1.6p)	0.Sp	
Į	chairman to replace Richard	Shilah (F)	35.43m (28.06m)	1.34m (841,284)	16,140 (11.640)	4.0p (3.85p)	
ĺ	King, who told the board last	Taspols (I)	7.36m (13.04m)	-2.46m (-1.66m)	-9.4p (-6.3p)	-:	
ŀ	August that he intended to	UK Estates (1)	1.73m (2.48m)	161,000 (112,000)	0.28p (0.11p)	0.15p	
I	step down in 1997. Other changes have included	Westmoont Energy (f)	198,906 (106,229)	100,691 (46,293)	0.6p (0.4p)		
ļ	the resignation of Peter Higgins,	Whiteborch Group (F)	47.68m (49.5m)	-4.3m (597,332)	-28.91p (2.61p)		

IN BRIEF

cant opportunities for further growth in volumes have been identified and, if metal prices recover as currently predicted, future profitability will be ensured." However, he said the first-half results of the recently acquired G&P Batteries were somewhat below expectations, largely because of a sharp fall in sterling lead prices.

James Dickie has acquired AP Pressings, a division of Automotive Products Group, for £1.3m in cash. It said the acquisition includes supply agreements until the end of 2001 with A P Lockheed and A P Borg and Beck, divisions of Automotive Products Group, and several other automotive component

2 revolunt	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
T2.44m (14.8m)	7.1m (9.18m)	9.7p (17.3p)	5.65p (5 <u>.1</u> 4p
78.56m (63.14m)	2.91m (2.09m)	11,26p (8.17p)	1. 0 p
5.77bn (5.62ba)	591m (590m)	11.3p (11.4p)	
181.8m (161.2m)	17.18m (14.11m)	17.7p (15.3p)	8.4p (7.6p)
203.7m (146.9m)	13 71m (10.48m)	11.51p (10.24p)	6.56p (5.99p
ir39.1m (tr33.7m)	lr1.2m (lr353,000)	13,47p (11.16p)	r <u>a</u>
5.13m (3.05m)	-235,000 (156,000)	-24p (17p)	C 04p (0.10p
284,796 (-)	-351,002 (-)	-7.02p (~)	
10.79m (8.49m)	412,000 (287,000)	1.Sp (1.6p)	0.Sp
35.43m (28.06m)	1.34m (841,284)	16,14p (11.64p)	4.0p (3.85p)
7.36m (13.04m)	-2.46m (-1.66m)	-9.4p (-6.3p)	
1.73m (2.48m)	161,000 (112,000)	0.26p (0.11p)	Q.15p
198,906 (106,229)	100,691 (46,293)	(J.6p (G.4p)	
47.68m (49.5m)	-4.3m (597,332)	-28.91p (2.61p)	
	12.44m (14.8m) 78.56m (63.14m) 5.77tn (5.82be) 181.8m (161.2m) 203.7m (146.9m) 138.1m (133.7m) 5.13m (3.05m) 284.796 (-) 10.78m (8.49m) 35.43m (28.08m) 7.36m (13.04m) 1.73m (2.48m)	72.44m (14.6m) 7.1m (2.16m) 78.56m (63.14m) 2.91m (2.08m) 5.77tn (5.82be) 591m (590m) 181.8m (161.2m) 17.18m (14.11m) 203.7m (146.9m) 13.71m (10.48m) 138.1m (123.7m) 17.2m (12.48m) 139.1m (12.37m) 17.2m (12.48m) 139.1m (12.37m) 17.2m (12.48m) 139.1m (12.48m) 12.000 (287.000) 284.786 (-) 351.002 (-) 10.78m (8.48m) 1.34m (841,284) 7.36m (13.04m) 2.46m (-1.66m) 1.73m (2.48m) 161.000 (112.000) 198.906 (106.229) 100.691 (46.293)	T2.44m (14.8m) 7.1m (9.18m) 9.7p (17.3p) 78.56m (63.14m) 2.91m (2.08m) 11.26p (8.17p) 5.77tn (5.82be) 591m (590m) 11.3p (11.4p) 181.8m (161.2m) 17.18m (14.11m) 17.7p (15.3p) 203.7m (146.9m) 13.71m (10.48m) 11.51p (10.24p) k38.1m (k33.7m) k7.2m (k7353,000) k3.47p (k1.16p) 5.13m (3.05m) -235,000 (156,000) -24p (17p) 284.786 (-) -351,002 (-) -7.02p (-) 10.78m (8.49m) 412,000 (287,000) 1.5p (1.6p) 35.43m (28.08m) 1.34m (841,284) 16,14p (11.54p) 7.36m (13.04m) -2.46m (-1.66m) -9.4p (-6.3p) 1.73m (2.48m) 161,000 (112.000) 0.26p (0.1p) 198.906 (106.228) 100,691 (46.293) 0.6p (0.4p)

Phone numbers firm struggles

Clifford German

Life Numbers, which sells telephone numbers that customers can use anywhere and any time. lost £356,000 on sales of £285,000 between floating on the Alternative Investment Market last July and the end of entering the market as well as December. Apart from direct a slower-than-expected take-up costs of £105,000 it spent of alpha numeric dialling, a sys-£535,000 on sales, marketing and administration.

The company's main market is with businessmen and roving gle telephone number.

Life's chairman, Paul Davis, admitted yesterday the con-

cept of personal numbers had suffered from increased competition from other companies

a slower-than-expected take-up tem which allows companies to choose a word instead of a conventional phone number. The results were disappoint-

salespeople willing to pay £120 ing, he said, but he anticipated this month. Monthly overheads have been cut in half, three executive directors have been shed and an exclusive contract with its supplier has been renegotiated.

7 5

The net assets of the company are now less than 50 per cent of the called-up share capital of £650,000, which triggers a requirement to call an extraordinary general meeting. The

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e's willneir life ie. And lay I am woman b on the arely disme too irs to the the help ks, that I onsibility e a cold hatever I idea how n make in licy handt the matkes, is the tefract sixæginning,

Belated election jitters topple Footsie from new peak

From breakfast to coffee time blue chips were riding at a new

sounding 33.3 gain.

Suddenly election nerves, an influence which had been sounding 33.3 gain.

Suddenly election nerves, an influence which had been supplied to the state of eroded confidence.

By early afternoon the index although - as Wall Street produced another storming run -prices rallied. Footsic could manage only a 2.8 gain, leaving the closing calculation 8.3 below the peak established just before John Major named

polling day.

BICC, once known as British Insulated Callender Cables, peak. Inspired by another New was the latest to warn of lower York spectacular Footsic profits. It did not cite sterling's touched 4,466.5 points, a re-power but talked of tough

conspicuous by its absence rotherm and Pilkington were during the long campaign, among other industrial names under pressure.
But GKN bucked the trend.

was nursing an 18.9 fall and The engineer's £352m takeover of Sinter Metals of Ohio was seen as earnings-enhancing and captured the market's imagination; the shares jumped 40p to 951p; SBC Warburg is looking for 1,050p. Glaxo Wellcome, still en-

olling day.

Financials, for so long in the port and ahead of a research



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Cadbury Schweppes had to day caution. But South West contend with disappointing US soft drink sales, melting 10p to 513.5p. Whitbread, kicking

stock market reporter of the year Water rose 9p to 687.5p on

Panmure Gordon support.

Boosey & Hawkes, the muoff the brewery season with final figures next week, was little changed at 768p. It should Fischer, an unquoted US roll out £315m, up from group, said it planned to sell its £283.1m. There are hopes the 45.3 per cent interest. EMI, afcoming round of results will lift ter the Henderson Crosthbrewery shares from their waite investment dinner, gave

Another engineer, APV, rose 16p to 87p on the bid approach: Lucas Varity firmed 2p to 185.5p; it has bought back through ABN Amro Hoare Govett another 2 million

shares at 187p.
Ex-Lands, the property group, ended 1p lower at 20.25p after admitting it is in talks which could lead to acquisitions and board appointments. It denied it was involved in negotiations which could produce a bid for the company. Any deal, which looks like a reslumbers; they have under-performed the market.

Northern Ireland Electricity

up 20p at 1,224p.

Engineer Siebe was helped
14.5p higher to 912p by Drestouched 24,75p.

verse takeover, would be at below the market price which
touched 24,75p.

have put the shares on hold while Crédit Lyonnais Laing advocated selling.

Another approach APPU

APPU

Another approach APPU

be near; a Nasdaq listing may its round of tips. also be in its sights. Optometrics, the optical group, was shattered 9.5p to 14p after the Peter Levine-led

bullish statement.

Petra Diamonds made a

Century Inns, Regent Inns, Surrey Free Inns, Greene King (partly because of its Magic Pub chain) and Yates consortium after "due dili- Brothers Wine Lodges make

gence" backed out of a deal to up the bulk of its naps.

Only Vaux, the Sunder-Stentor, the Irish telephone

Only Vaux, the Sunder-land brewer where PG hints operation, jumped 13p to at management changes, is 157.5p ahead of an expected not included for its retail

sparkling debut. Placed at the equivalent of 30p the shares hit 42.5p with the warrants, handed out as a bonus, closing at 17.5p. The group, seeking diamonds in southern African, is closed amount, a US com-

	Financials, for so long in the forefront of the stock market advance, succumbed to profit taking and with many traditional areas of the nation industry suffering from the strength of the pound, inspiration was sadly lacking.	's presentation tomorrow, gained a further 25.5p to 1,213.5p. But Zeneca, with Merrill Lynch	Northern Ireland Electricity had a rare moment in the limelight with BZW saying the shares had "something to go for". The price flickered 3.5p higher to 400p. Utilities generally had a subdued session, reflecting the sudden polling	touched 24.75p. Coincidentally, Arion Properties, run by Jim Slater's son restment the enthused enthused shink and Pan- touched 24.75p. Coincidentally, Arion Properties, run by Jim Slater's son reverse takeover talks. The shares jumped 5p to a 13p peak.	announds in southern African, is closed amount, a US company, reporting the duncxpectedly strong results at one of its prospects. Emerald Energy, reporting strong gas kicks" at its Colombian drill slipped 0.25p to 6p; Dragon Oil held at 4p.
	### ACCHORGE Severages ### 40" Aled Domaca 485 +11 68 62 550 ### 40" Aled Domaca 485 +11 68 62 550 ### 40" Aled Domaca 485 +11 68 62 550 ### 40" Aled Domaca 485 +11 68 62 550 ### 40" Aled Domaca 485 +11 68 62 550 ### 50" Ale Book 45	80', 61', 1918 Cash	500 Periment S27 12 29 284 22 27 Periment 285 287 288 28 28 28 28 28	27 22 30 25 25 30 30 30 3 25 3 25 3 26 3 27 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	Share Price Data Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by the per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (PFC) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Dither decalls: or Exhights x Exhiditional xx Exhibit under exceptional items. Dither decalls: or Exhights x Exhiditional xx Exhibit under exceptional items. Dither decalls: or Exhights x Exhiditional xx Exhibit under exceptional items. Dither decalls: or Exhights x Exhiditional xx Exhibit under exceptional items. The Independent Index. The Independent Index. Index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Landon Stock Sections, Samply diel 0891 123 393, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. It access the latest financial reports diel 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. FTSE 100 - Real-time 00 Storting Retes 04 Privatisation Issues 36 LK Company News 02 Walf St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40 Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41 Index Including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. The price of the two digits of the shares are prices by phone from Landon The independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. The price of the price of the price of the price of the phone 071 123 333. The price of the price of the phone 071 123 333. The price of the price of the phone 071 123 333. The price of the price of the phone 071 123 333. The price of the phone 071 123 333.
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ing.

Yes we are better off now, but there's been a price to pay

hatever the result of the election, one of the puzzles for Conservative strategists to mult over will be why the economy was not more of a votewinner. What did happen to the feelgood factor? Why did the deliberate echo of the slogan "You've never had it so good" not chime with the mood of the electorate when we have indeed never been better off? Why did studio audiences jeer Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke when they tried to say so?

There are two types of answer to these questions, both instructive for whoever finds themselves running the economy from tomorrow. One is that voters have not been ready to give the ex-Government the credit for setting right its own mistakes. The Clarke successes of the past four years have not erused the memory of the Lamont failures of the previous three.

The inflation target, the Ken and Eddie show, the tax cuts in the two most recent Budgets have delivered a perfectly reasonable business cycle performance, subject to the criticism that Mr Clarke has primed the pump a bit too much ahead of the election. But nobody has forgotten the deep recession – one of the worst in the industrial world since the Second World War – the humiliating exit from the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992, the surge in better election.

the tax hikes after the last election. What's more, the economic policies of the past five years will not turn out to be the monuments of 18 years of Conservative government, if that era does end today. Looking back over the years to 1979, the most significant policies were all implemented in the first decade, not the second. If I had to single out one decision that had made a lasting and profound difference to Britain's economic prospects, it would be the privatisation of BT and deregulation of

telecommunications.

This has put the UK alongside the US in the vanguard of new technology and growth prospects, and given us a better communications infrastructure and more vigorous multimedia industry than most other industrial nations. But other



Diane
Coyle
The Tories have
embraced
change. But they
have not
admitted that
there are costs,
including blatant
unfairness

Thatcherite acts of deregulation and privatisation also made a contribution to halting Britain's relative economic decline.

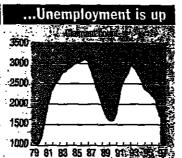
Professor Nick Crafts. no Thatcherite, concluded in a recent pamphlet for the Social Market Foundation that the UK had probably stopped sliding down the world league. Recent Labour claims to the contrary exaggerate small changes in the UK's position due mainly to exchange rate changes.

Yet the Thatcher shake-up of the

ontrary exaggerate small changes the UK's position due mainly to schange rate changes.

Yet the Thatcher shake-up of the linequality has grown...

This means that accountancy of the economic performance of the past 18 years is more complicatedUnemployment is up



mitted that there are costs, includ-

even the winners. The poorest

group in the population are with-

out any question materially better off than they were two decades ago.

But crime and social dislocation

have increased. The strain on the

welfare state has become near-

intolerable, and the resulting

squeeze on spending has left us in

the state of private affluence and

public squalor identified by John

Inequality makes us all worse off,

ing blatant unfairness.

British economy also explains the than just looking at the higher level second kind of reason why the Tories are now getting no credit for of national income per head the Tories can point to. Thus the New prosperity. For it created winners Economics Foundation's index of and losers in a way that convensustainable economic welfare adjusts tional macroeconomic policy rarely GDP for costs such as inequality, the does. Although inflation certainly depletion of natural resources, enpenalises some groups - savers, people on fixed incomes, the low vironmental degradation and "defensive" spending such as crime prevention. It has fallen by 17 per paid whose earnings never keep up this is an invisible and undramatic cent in per capita terms since 1979. The lesson of this calculus for the redistribution. Labour market deregulation, the attempts to renext 18 years is that the sorts of ecoshape public services, pension re-

nomic developments that are monform, privatisation, on the other itored day to day by officials and the City and the newspapers do not reveal the big changes that are tak-ing place in the economy. Of course it is important to keep inflation low hand, have dramatically increased inequality in the UK. In a world where the embodiment of a big wave of technological and growth steady. But it is other policies that will make the biggest change is turning industrial structure upside down, making old skills obsolete and destroying and creat-ing markets, greater inequality is probably inevitable. Politicians have difference to our prosperity by 2015. So, despite the risks in futurology, here is one scenario for to choose whether they will embrace change and try to take advantage of it or resist it. The Conservatives have 21st Century Britain. The pound will have been reembraced it. But they have not ad-

placed by the euro, but local, electronic currencies will have developed in parallel in the big urban areas. We will be adept at paying in one when we cross through the tunnel or do our online shopping from the national store chains, and at paying in another for local services. But the tax authorities will have failed to keep up, so the government will face a serious revenue shortfall.

Some public services will have been all but privatised. In pensions and long-term care, in housing, and in some areas of health care, the state will pay for the bare minimum and we will top up privately. Public resources will be concentrated on insuring us against the truly unpredictable financial events like illness and mid-life unemployment.

ness and mid-life unemployment. Britain will be booming and will have started to move up the international economic league tables. It will be a world leader in rapidly growing information-related industries using new technologies. Just as Harold Wilson was able to enjoy the benefits of the white heat of technological revolution for a few years in the Sixties, whoever is prime minister in the first decade of the 21st Century will reap the benefits of the latest technological wave.

The political leaders who speak with silver tongues

Edwina Currie has won a "Foot in Mouth" award for her prediction of a landslide Labour victory just days before the election and the Labour leader, Tony Blair, has walked the "Silver Tongue" competition with his "assured handling of Labour's election campaign", according to Aziz Corporation, a Winchester-based

presentation consultancy.

The awards were made to mark the best and worst performances by politicians during the campaign. Peter Ruff of Aziz Corporation said Edwina broke all the rules he teaches in handling media interviews. "She fell into the trap of speaking off the record, making comments which no journalist could ignore. She compounded her errors as she subsequently tried to excuse herself."

Paddy Ashdown came second in the silver tongue stakes while, perhaps surprisingly, Michael Portillo came third "for maintaining the Cahinet position on Europe despite all attempts to derail him".

spite all attempts to derail him."

John Prescott was a close runner-up for the foot in mouth prize for his gaffes on the minimum wage. And Eurosceptic-in-chief Sir James Goldsmith got a special Aziz raspberry for ignoring all the rules of election broadcasts developed over the past 30 years. His cardinal sin was "delivering a lecture to viewers from behind his desk". He's obviously been in business too long.

Morgan Stanley is one, BZW would love to be one and Singer & Friedlander is quite happy in the knowledge that it will never be one – a bulge bracket investment bank.

But what is a bulge bracket when it's at home? We all know that BZW and NatWest Markets are throwing money at fancy hirings in order to compete with the global big boys such as Goldman Sachs. But while banks like these aspire to "bulge bracket" status nobody seems to know exactly what the term means.

I turned to a recent copy of

Institutional Investor magazine for the answer. Apparently the original "bulge bracket" club originated on Wall PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Off the record: Edwina Currie won the foot-in-mouth award

Street and ceased to exist at least 10 years ago. The term covered a half-dozen American houses which ran a near-cartel of underwriting bond issues.

In the 1940s and 1950s banks such as Morgan Stanley, First Boston, Kuhn, Loeb & Co and Dillon, Read ganged together to carve up such issues between them. leaving lesser banks to pick up the less lucrative bits.

Every issue would be recorded

Every issue would be recorded by a "tombstone" advert in the financial press recording who did what: the top firms' names "bulged" out from the underwriting plebs beneath them. This cartel disintegrated in the

1970s, hit by competition from aggressive houses such as Salomon and Merrill Lynch. But the description lives on as a coveted badge of banking machismo. So now you can stun invest-

ment bankers with your knowl-

edge. And there I was thinking it

City University Business School has a new dean, industrial economics guru Professor Leslie Hannah, He succeeds David Kaye, himself a former senior partner with Andersen Consulting.

Professor Hannah has a positively overflowing CV, having taught at Oxford. Cambridge, the Harvard Business School and Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo. He is pro-director of the London School of Economics and will take up his new post in September.

Professor Hannah thinks there is "still everything to play for" in the expanding European market for business education, as opposed to the US, where the market is already mature.

ket is already mature.

He thinks there are around a dozen main contenders, City among them.

A London businessman is being held in Antwerp by police investigating a £100m fraud which hit Lloyd's syndicates and top brokers in the City of London.

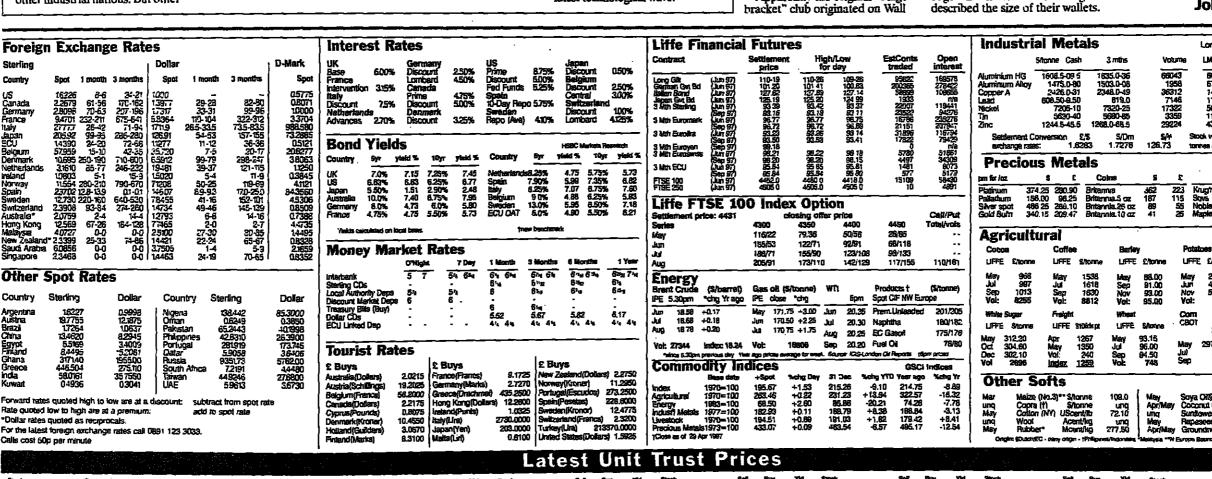
Mike Reeve, chairman of CRM Insurance Services, was detained by Palaine indicated police while

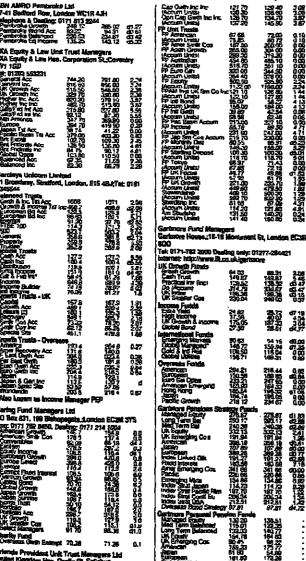
Mike Reeve, chairman of CRM Insurance Services, was detained by Belgian judicial police while attempting to hand over a 300-page dossier designed to distance himself from the affair, his company said last night.

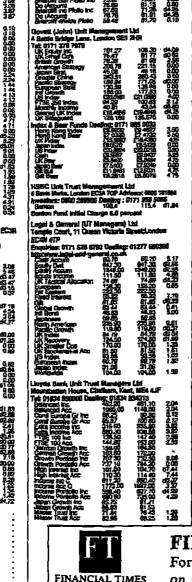
CRM acted as a managing agency for Dai Ichi Kyoto, the Brussels-based insurance company at the centre of an international investigation by the Belgian police, the FBI and the Serious Fraud Office. The company traded on the similarity of its name to Japan's largest bank and took huge amounts of money from City brokers on the strength of its alleged backing from Japanese pension funds.

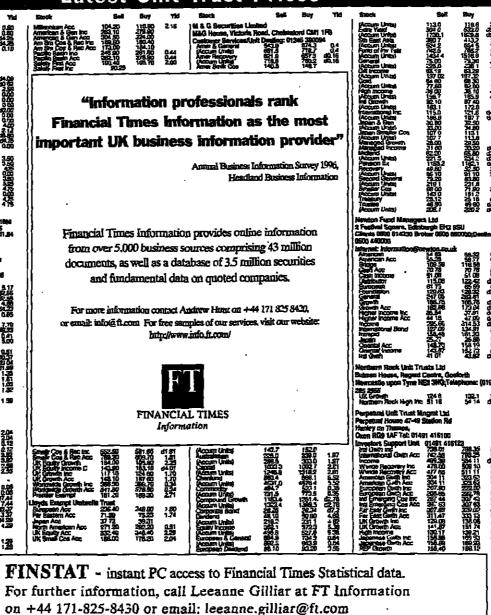
Mr Reeve went to Belgium to clear his name and instead got thrown into the clink. Last night CRM denounced this conduct as "quite outrageous, reflecting the manner in which this entire inquiry has been coercively misdirected". The Belgian police kept silent.

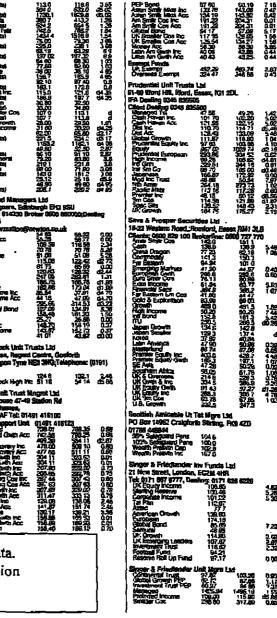
John Willcock

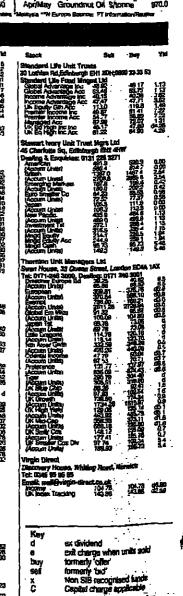






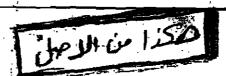






Copies of the most recent manage

A more extensive list of Unit Tausia and Managed Funds, ranked by performant



Orchestra sets his stall out

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RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Ascot

Double Trigger, the leading force among stayers for some time now, went into yesterday's Sagaro Stakes with nine Group victories to his name. Like another who has held top office for a while, he found No 10 an elusive target yesterday.

The chestnut's efforts to record a hat-trick in the Group Three race foundered dramatically as he limped home last behind Orchestra Stall. Wilawander was second and Election Day, who at one stage looked as though he might finish on the date his name sug-

gested, struggled back up into Orchestra Stall has suffered

would perform best on spongy going. He disappointed on such but looked a different performer yesterday. "We didn't like the idea of running on this ground," Lord Swaythling, the gelding's part-owner, said, "But obviously the horse did. Now we'll have to put him in all the decent staying ruces."

There is a slight problem there. The entries for the Ascot Gold Cup closed vesterday and Orchestra Stall's name was not among them. Nevertheless there will be other prizes for the five-year-old, even if none of them come in beauty contests. He was by no means the pick of the catwalk yesterday.

Jiyush was certainly the nois-

with his caramel coat, but Double Trigger, who looks as though a surface on his reappearance, he has been the victim of a. whitewash attack, was again the magnet. It remains a sur-

> RICKARD EDMONDSON NAP: Brambles Way (Redcar 3.30) NB: Ziggy's Dancer (Wolverhampton 3.45)

prise his rider comes out wearing a helmet and not a stetson.

The favourite was reported by connections to be "full of beans", but from half-way he moved as if there was also chips, Yorkshire pudding and semolina down there as well. Jason Weaver had to get to work.

from his breeding) that he zier. Wilawander took the eye ey said. "I was pushing and before he wins this race. He has pumping from Swinley Bottom but I was like that last year so I wasn't that worried. But then he was gone. Obviously I'm disappointed but he'll be back."

> There was no easy explanation from the horse's trainer either, "I told Jason that if they were going too fast to let him come in his own time, but he didn't come," Mark Johnston said, "It may be that he doesn't try when he isn't in front. Jason said that he didn't make much effort and we ought to try him in blinkers but then that was his opinion this time last year."

Orchestra Stall's victory launched a double for Richard Quinp, successful later in the Victoria Cup on Tregaron. The

the Cherry Hinton Stakes at

Newmarket over six furlongs in

July. Admittedly she disap-

for much of his career because iest, blasting out snorts that "Three and a half out I thought handicapped by Reg Akehurst, of an apprehension (drawn would have extinguished a bra- we still had a chance," the jock- but the trainer usually says that collected it twice before with Sky Cloud and Far North.

Akehurst's horses returned from action for part of last season as if they required an inhaler and the trainer put this down to fields of oilseed rape near the Epsom gallops, "It's detrimental to people who have got asthma and I'm sure it's detrimental to horses," he said. "The pollen is rich and oily and we had a lot of lung infections.

"The farmer had already planted it again for this year but he's a terrific chap because he's sprayed it and killed the lot. I owe him a debt of gratitude. Point taken. If you ever see Bert Perry in a betting shop having a punt on a South Hatch run-



Akehurst: Trains Tregaron

There was a blast from the past in the Chobham Stakes when Nwaamis, who was fifth in the 1995 2,000 Guineas, finally found his way back to the winners' enclosure at the age of five. The old horse has been kept from the track by a parasitic disease which affects the nervous system called EPM. Someone may be suffering from a similarly debilitating affliction

Windfall for top Welsh clubs

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Next year's Welsh champions will rake in well in excess of £500,000 in prize-money under new financial arrangements an-nounced in Cardiff yesterday. Broadcasting and sponsorship revenue will allow the Welsh

Roghy Union to put a £3.5m pot on the premiership table, enough to ensure all eight participating clubs at least £367,000, just for turning up. As a result, the big gurs of the Principality can look forward to

competing on a level playing field with the Leicesters, Baths, Wasps and Harlequins of this world. Although previously im-poverished sides like Neath will look on this latest cash injection with an ironic eye - had the reigning champions picked up half a million for winning last season's title, they would almost certainly have kept Leigh Davies and the Llewellyn brothers at The Gnoll - they are now secure in the knowledge that the wolf has moved further away from the door than at any point since the onset of profession-

There is, however, no such thing as a free lunch - or, in rugby's case, a free pint. Fearful that clubs might spend most, if not all, of the cash on six-figure salaries, the WRU is laying down a number of conditions designed to ensure at least some investment in player development and will reserve the right to examine the books of all participants.

Such strings have caused problems in the past; Llanelli, up to their eyeballs in debt, recently passed up the opportunity of a £200,000 loan from the WRU because they objected to restrictive clauses in the agreement. But the signs are that full agreement between the clubs and the governing body will be reached before the end of the current campaign.

Happy news at Bath, too, where Gareth Adams, the England A hooker forced to retire from all contact sport at 26 because of neck problems, has been appointed director of youth development. Adams will be expected to strengthen ties with the club's high-profile rugby academies at Colston's School in Bristol and Bath Uni-

Dazzle may yet shine again when it matters most Election day - time for some ing done everything asked of is an argument for saying she has failed to train on and that bounced back to run a big race

Wright thinking. Not about who governs Britain, but who will be his three races as a two-year-old the guv nors of the Rowley of 52, 88 and 71 are meaning-Mile after the 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas this weekend. This year's Guineas trials have been less than conclusive and Chris Wright, who compiles Timeform's much-respected timefigures, admits this year's search

for that winning ante-post Classic bet is harder than ever.

2.30 Abstone Queen

3.00 Always Lucky (nb)

3.30 BRAMBLES WAY (nap)

SEDE R

HYPERION

him so far but his timefigures in less in terms of assessing his chances of a Classic, where the winner is expected to return a figure of at least 120."

"Yalaietance and Revoque returned reasonable figures of 110 each when separated by just a head in the Greenham Stakes. They make more appeal than Wright says: "Entrepreneur Desert Story, an exposed colt is impossible to assess. He can-who returned a figure of 109

4.00 Broad River

4.30 Kingdom Emperor

5.00 Lady Sheriff

ian Davies canvasses the views of Timeform's clock guru on the Classics

they finished in a hear and you while Dance Parade clocked just have thought that form was not good enough for a Classic. "Hidden Meadow recorded a figure of 103 when winning the Free Handicap and needs to im-

For the 1,000 Guineas, the trials have been even more mudis impossible to assess. He can-not be faulted in terms of hav-when winning the Craven returned a figure of 109 dling. Wright says: "Reunion pointed on both subsequent returned a figure of 101 when starts in the autumn and there

figure has little relevance for a Classic over a mile.

"However, the Cherry Hin-Stakes. That's a fair figure, but winning the Nell Gwyn Stakes 78 in the Fred Darling Stakes. So, with nothing having impressed this year, I'm inclined Prix Robert Papin - and Dazto go back to last year's figures zle [141 for the 1,000 with Coral and Ladbrokes reminds and Dazzle's 118 when winning

me a bit of Kerrera. "She was ultimately disappointing as a two-year-old in 1988, having clocked a fast fig-ure in the early summer, but Tote go 20-1] for Epsom."

BROAD RIVER, a 150,000-color vesting, and not show much on his sale not at two, but he gave out the

BROAD RIVER, a 160,000-doter vealing, did not show much on his side nor at too, but he gave out the right signes on his ritum to about an identification 16 days ago. Et of but on side signed or war to be fifth beaten four and a half engliss, to Shawal. Manifold River, a proy diagram of Mystica, is the point of Lynda Ramaden's two numers. Although Maddson Mast showed a fair but of promote on her Motorphian Georgia manch, making up a cost of ground to be fromth of 30 Orban Rev. for was over a 27%-years through manch, manifold or State source of 27%-years through the first for the first run of lost year, to modest his part and hung streethy ago. The cost of 30 per top long his madden tog when a next second to Matter on his responsance of firsts. Rand came close to the first madden tog when a next second to Matter Baseled at Matters, less Contract and there is protectly a handscrip to be won well him.

handicap 10 days back. Perfeps a visor can persued the fusitating Advance East to put his best for toward, while Mingdom Employs, runner-up to tim St. Jernes in a Rigon handicap last nme, and Sing And Dence, a half-length second in an 18-runner Neucastic handicap in March, are others to consider. Those efforts were over 10 funtings, so they have the Symma.

Selection: CARLYS QUEST

5.00 DON'T FORGET TO VOTE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added

[she was second to Musical Bliss] in the 1989 1,000 Gaineas." Looking further ahead to

the Derby, although the key triton form looked solid at the time - Ocean Ridge, the runner up, subsequently won the stage Wright likes Fahris, winner of the Feilden Stakes. Wright says: "Fahris returned a figure of 119 - the best by a three-year-old this year. If you take the view that he is bred to be better at a mile and a half than nine furlongs, he would be fair value [William Hill and the

Saints wait on Hunte

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens and Bradford have both delayed naming their teams for the Challenge Cup final - but the problems they face in making their decisions are dif-

ferent. Saints' coach, Shaun McRae. is still waiting for Alan Hunte. the in-form centre whose harnstring injury could keep him out of the Wembley line-up, to prove his fitness in time to

With Swansea ruling out any prospect of Scott Gibbs returning to make a guest appearance in the final, McRae will have to choose between Andy Haigh and Vila Matautia to fill Hunte's place if he fails to recover in time.

Saints' other recent casualty, Derek McVey, is back in training after ankle ligament trouble. but McVey must decide whether he can risk a forward who has not played since Good Friday. £200,000 by Oldham.

For Bradford Bulls' Matthew Elliott. the question is who to leave out. Apart from the longterm invalids, Jason Donougher and Warren Jowitt, he has a full squad to choose from, with the composition of his middle backs

The Cup's sponsors, Silk Cut. are again putting up a £10,000 prize for any player who scores a hat-trick of tries in the final

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have both made inquiries for David Bradbury, the Great Britain tour loose forward who has been transfer-listed at

Both Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski will be seeded for

the £422,000 Stella Artois Grass

Court Championships at Queen's Club, London, from

9 to 15 June, the first time that

two Britons will have been

seeded for the singles in the

No 16 in the world. In common

with Rusedski, No 40 on the

ATP Tour list, he has an

Michael Chang, the world No 2, heads a 56-strong field in

the singles competition, which

also includes Goran Ivanisevic,

twice runner-up at Wimble-

don, Sweden's Thomas En-qvist, and the 1992 champion Wayne Ferreira, of South

Africa. Pete Sampras, the world No 1, has asked for one of the

five wild cards to be reserved for

The sponsor announced a new deal worth £10m, which will

secure the future of the com-

petition for the next five years. By 2002, nearly £30m will have

been invested in the event over

the 24-year period.
Tickets for the 5,900 capacity

Centre Court have already sold

out, but there are 1,800 unre-

served seats available on the out-

side courts, Monday to Friday.

to holders of the daily ground ad-

The US Open will award prize-

money totalling \$11,821,890

(£7.3m) this year, a record sum

representing an increase of 8.54

mier Division: Northampton Spencer's Sawerts & Lloyds Corby; St Neots v Stamford. HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF INSLAND

PLAT-CR*S Figs mg Lugnariv vegening (7.45). PONTINS LEAGLE Premier Division: Derby v Cichem (7.0); Seron v Braingham (7.0); Men-chester (Id v Blackburn (7.0); Second Division: Carliste v Manchester Cry (7.0); Stockport v York (8.45).

nen

mission tickets, priced £8.

him.

Stella's 19-year history. Henman is currently ranked

Wright debut as England go for youth

Hockey

BILL COLWILL

"We must have the confidence to play a more attacking style, exhibiting high levels of fitness and skill." Souyave said.

ternational appearances.

Brown is one of five players from the Great Britain squad who went to the Olympics in Atlanta. Surprisingly, the 26-yearold Joanne Mould will be making her first England appearance as one of six new caps.
A first cap also goes to Lisa

summer's move from Ipswich to champions Slough. After cutting their teeth on

the main riddle he has to solve. "I've already had sleepless nights about it," Elliott said.

on Saturday. Bradford's Robbie Paul col-

lected such a cheque when he became the first player to do so in a Wembley final, captaining the Bulls to their 40-32 defeat by Saints last year. He still could to become Wembley's youngest-ever winning captain if he lifts the Cup this weekend. Leeds and Sheffield Eagles

Britain's top two seeded at Oueen's

Tennis JOHN ROBERTS

Lucilla Wright, Olton's 17-year-old striker, is set to make her international debut against the United States in England's opening match of the Five Nations Invitation Tournament which starts today in Vancouver.

Olton's inclusion in a squad containing five teenagers demonstrates the commitment to youth of the coach. Maggie Souvave, and her emphasis on attacking hockey. attacking style suited to the fast

Experience will be provided

by the captain, Mandy Davies, and the 34-year-old Karen Brown, who will be winning her 250th outdoor cap out of 285 in-

Copeland, the 24-year-old defender who has made tremendous progress since last

the Americans, England encounter Canada, Japan and Ireland, who are all in England's group in the World Cup qualifying tournament in Harare, Zimbabwe, in August.

ENGLAND SQUAD (Five Nations Invitation Transparent, Vancouser). In Desice (250), H. Rosse (340). Collect., S. Blanks, K. Browden, F. Nation. J. Mossid, C. Voota (Incentur), K. Brown, L. Copeland, J. Smith (Slough), J. Empson (Carbury), T. Cellen, J. Newsonambe, G. Reid (Fightows), L. Wright (Clori, D. Marsten-Smith (Calori, D. Marsten-Smith) (Calori, D. Marsten-Smith (Calori, D.

per cent over last year's prize pool, the US Tennis Association said yesterday.

PLAY-OFF'S Float last Dundalky Water

TODAY'S FIXTURES UNESPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pro-

Football

Southport v Wolding (7.45)

MIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Dagenhem & Reclarige v Cherissy (7.45).

UNISOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Bernhem & Reclarige v Bettop Auchlend; Fraitley v Colvan Bay, Flest Division; Workson v Fransity Colva, President's, Cup Final Second legt Blyth Spertans 11) v Runcom (0) (7.45).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Baldock v Gloucesser: Salicbury v Operhesser: Subbuty Town v Grassy Pruesa. Middland Division: Spesshed Dynomo v Termworth.

Other sports

TABLE TENNES: World Champ-anships (Manches TENNES: Men's and Women's setellite events

3.30 BRAMBLES WAY (nap) 5.00 Lady Sheriff
GOING: Firm, Good to Firm in places (watered), STALLS: Straight - centre; rest - inside, DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 51 to 1 in.

Left-hand, tight course, with a one mile straight.

Course is off A1085 (signosted from A661, Redear station (Darlington - Saltburn line)
300yd, ADMISSION: Club \$12; Paddock \$8 (OAPs £3.50); Course £2.50 (OAPs £1.25).

CAR PARE: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RINNERS: Mrs M Reveley — 41 winners from 320
runners gives a success ratio of 12.3% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$21.197, J Berry
— 14 winners, 127 runners, 11.4%, \$25.50; M Johnston — 13 winners, 137 runners,
9.5%, \$7.87; TD Barron — 10 winners, 67 runners, 14.9%, \$1.87.

LEADING JOCKETS: K Darley — 48 winners, 14.9%, \$1.87.

LEADING JOCKETS: K Darley — 48 winners, 12.7%, +\$0.56; K Fallon
— 19 winners, 132 rides, 14.4%, \$23.50; Detan McKeown — 16 winners, 126 rides,
11.9%, \$23.50; J Weaver — 14 winners, 109 rides, 12.8%, \$23.77.79.

RINKERED FIRST TIME: Advance East (visured) (4.30), Whothebellishurry (visored) (4.30),
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Carbys Quest (4.30) sent 271 miles by J Neville from Ca-LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Carrys Quest (4,30) sem 271 miles by J Neville from Ca-WO LESS AMERICAL

| 3.00 | MONSTER RAVING LOONEY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 270 fillies 5f Ponsity Value £2,898 1 3 ALMAYS LICKY (\$11) (Mex. Lio Blum) | Beny B.4 Prince (\$15) 6 DAYS OF GRACE (\$15) (Stephen Bayless) Alarmyn Meade 8 4 Fillien 4 A BABY GRAND (Als D E Shorp) | D Barron 8 1 Lournook 3 6 MARSKE MACHINE (\$31) (Morbon B 1 LOURnook 3 6 MARSKE MACHINE (\$31) (Morbon B 1 LOURnook 3 6 MARSKE MACHINE (\$31) (Morbon B 1 LOURnook 3 6 MARSKE MACHINE (\$31) (Morbon B 1 LOURnook 3 6 MACHINE (\$31) (Morbon B 1 LOURnook 3 1 LO SPAREY CRANCHER (ARS 1 Both M. Johnston & J. 4 Roberts 4
BARY GRAND (ARS D E Sycopi T D Borro 8 1 L. Charmock 3
BARY GRAND (ARS D E Sycopi T D Borro 8 1 L. Charmock 3
MARSEN BRANCHER (SS) (Ars F. Muschier Co) N Tortice 8 1 L. G. Had 7
PETTE LADY (S) (R F. F. Muschier P. Borro 8 1 J. F. Egen 5
RitherPELD BEAUTY (Frank Body) | Godde 8 1 J. Quiden 1

7
RHITE PLUT (e) (V.) F ARSON T CHARS of 1.

7
RHITE PLUT (E) (V.) F ARSON T CHARS of 1.

7
RHITE PLUT (E) (V.) F ARSON T CHARS OF 1.

7
RHITE PLUT (E) (V.) F ARSON T CHARS OF 1.

7
RETTING: 7-4 Always Lacky, 9-2 Sharp Cracker, 5-1 Days Of Smoce, Marsker Machine, 6-1 Petite Lady, 6-1 Rhinefield Beauty, 10-1 Beby Grand
1998: Utro Boy 2-0 1 G Carler 9-1 (P.) Hasterni 6 man
FROM SILIDE

ALWAYS LUCKY, an Abcalom bity and of a full-search to Paris House who was over the manmam up as a purerrie, was not too quickly away on her Warneck debut but ran on well to be a close trurd of 14 to Vax.
Repode in a good Face, Lack Berly's bio-year with size from made their usual good start, so Always Lucky
should improve from that one and meles priority of appeal with size 7 to 13th on early thans to Paul Fessey's clean, Doys Of Grand has muniged some good runs behind Bluendge Dancer in the Brocklesby Stalkes,
at Doncaster, Barningsom Blade at Lingfeld and Papalica at Newmarket. He deserves to vien a race but a hardly likely to progress mus. Dand Starch has he day Juvenile witners so las his the Welle Laddy seemed to lack the necessary pace for this trop on her Rippin introduction behind Lady Mell. Marnian Machine should pose a begin threat having caught the eye in som to Rely Ministry at Regions on the Websical Occh Verbi at Rippin, and his Hardles Riy Sharp Cracker is one to wasch in the hetting, along with Dand Barron's Bably Grand, who is by Makkedarrah, and James Golgie's Rhiberbeld Beauty, helf-ester to last season's Bably Searchid weren's Young Beyer.

3.30 PAT PHOENIX HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 3f Penalty Value £2,937

1996: Ordained 3 8 5 S Drowne 8-1 (E.J. Alston) 8 ran NEEP BATTLING will be suited by this unusual typ as he has won over 10 and 12 futiongs and he has the ground in his twour, it should suit from that Brombles Way will probably take them along at a good clip, front-naming carbos centarily paid of when Brombles Way landed a 10-futiong handlage from 18 houls at Beveriev 26 days ago, Brandles Way law, won four times over hurdles this season and is in great heart, but there muss be invited improvement in this eight-year-old even if another hold bid is on the cards in this ceashanks, unsighted in a Ripon seller team month, had some reasonable planing from a 1995 and it wouldn't be the greatest surprise to see her ligate of a laght weight, especially with lest lyre hearing established himself as a trainer worth following. Moreous Laid has a 626-day abstence to despone but fools tarry transcoped on his return and is partitisted by Robert Hallin, who won on him at Namitton in August, 1985. Cottagle Prince. a winner over hurdles at Felenham in Occider, was body hangleed behind Barmbles Way at Beverley and probably Registed that first outing ance Abusember in any case. Selection: REEP SATTLING

4.00 RACING CHANNEL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 7f Penalty Value £3,899

- 7 decised -BETING: 8-11 Broad River, 5-2 Madison Mist, 6-1 Look Who's Calling, 10-1 Rand, 14-1 Maked,

20-1 Digital Option, 33-1 Heubach Boy 1996: Huim 3 8 9 G Carter 13-8 Of Thomson Jones) 6 can

- 11 declared BETTING: 11-10 Brumbles Way, 9-2 Keep Battling, 8-1 Cottage Prince, 10-1 Norma Ltd, 12-1 Girlbox, Clasmirie, Tagestay, 14-1 McGRycaidry Creeks, My Mille, 20-1 Try Ommipotent, 25-1 Penny

- 10 decising - 10 legistry - 10 decising - 10 legistry - 10 decising - 10 legistry -

This provides a good opening for KRRA, even if the handleapper is not on her tool. She is 11th higher than when readily beating Sallo and See-Deer over the Doncasser sox in March, but only 2th above the mark sine son off at Repon (6t) lest time when a strong order in the nestect and finding only the set-drawn French Crit top good. Now has begue of pace and wit not be troubled by revening to the furtings, but he could be present by gainty if Landa Remarken has her in good nick for this reappearance. Cately wearn the admit of Kica when they were fourth and general in a 21-numer Doncasser handscap over this trip last September and was alterwards hadly drawn when consesting the Air Sher Cop. Deapy won twice earlier and less scape for impovement, Lady Sheeff is officiale over the furiongs on fast ground and has become notely handscapped after a long losing spell, while Bollin Donnifty and the lightly-raced Automita's Choice can make their presence left.

Solvection: KRPA

2.15 Rosewood Lady 2.45 Kalar 3.15 Shalstayholy 3.45 Malibu Man 4.15 Kingsdown Trix 4.45 Bold Aristocrat 5.15 Blya

GOING: Standard.
STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6/ to 1m 4f.
Elibresand, left-hand, oval course.
Elibresand, left-hand, oval course.
Ecourse is Not town on A449. Wolverhampton station: Im. AD-MISSION: Chib 515; Tattersalls 56 (OAP members of Diamond Club 54); Viewing Restaurant 525.90 including entrance and med.
CAR PARES. Free.
ELINEREED FUEST TIME: Skelton Somerates (4 16): Non (5, 14). CAR PARE: Proc. BLINEREED FUST TIME: Skelton Sovereigh (4.15); Blyn. (5.15). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Intimath (3.45) won at

Bark on Tuesday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Hatta Sunshine (4.45), One Off The
Red (5.15), Shalatayholy (3.15), Stoppes Brow (3.45) & Kingadown
Tela (4.15) sent 178 miles by G I, Moore from Woodingsten, E Sussex.

2.15 UTL MARDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 270 5f BLUE NOTE N Lamoden 85. _A McCarthy (7) 10 _Martin Dayer (3) 3

RUTHS GEM B Peace 7 12 -SWEET ROSSE R Boss 7 12 -NG: 7-2 One Singer, 4-1 Hey Up Mate, 6-1 Researced Lady, 7-1 Sweet s, 8-1 Demolition Jo, Chardenia, Summersont, 10-1 others

2.45 RPL AMATEUR RIDERS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV I) £2,375 added 6f

— 9 declared —
BETTING: 5-2 Dancing Stone, 3-1 Knist, 9-2 Pendop, Score, 8-1 Zubeir,
Miss Ragh Pendoce, 12-1 Sed Dragms, 20-1 others 3.15 DE TE WE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO filles 67

— s uscarrer — Minimum velgit: 7s; 10th. Two handlesp velgis: Bonyaka Mil 7s; 20. BETTING: 5-2 Chill Concerto, 3-1 Describeshiptaway, 4-1 Short Minucle, 6-1 Favouril My Love, 8-1 Gopl, 10-1 Shaktaykoly, 12-1 Others 3.45 VARIX HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 5f

4.15 ISDN SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 370 1m 4f

acided 3YO 1m 4f

481416 Robestown text (20 0) 61 Moore 8 2 _____ R Perham 3

333404 Spetron Sovereign (3) R Holinehad 9 2_F Lyach (3) 2 8

5 500 Secon STAR (35) D Burnel 8 11 ______ S Drowne 1

4 306-043 Spekralicus (19) 8 Bugh 8 11 ______ A Collina 5

5 0040 Spekralicus (25) Librol James 8 5_Mimboloy Nort (7) 4

— 5 declared —

BETTWIE 10-11 Magndown Thy, 4-1 Spondalicis, 9-2 Shallon Sovereign, 6-1 Sheat Wells, 14-1 Shor Star

2.45: 1. PERSIAN ELITE (I Ostorne) 6-4 (ar; 2. Nordic Spree 8-1; 3. Ben Bonden 11-2. 6 ren. 4, 1/4. (C Egerton). Total £1.80; £1.30, £3.90, DF: £7.50. CSF:

£11.83. 3.20; 1. FRAZER ISLAND (D O'Suliven) 2.5 fey; 2. Mahwood Castle 7-2; 3. Dream Leader 9-2, 3 ran. 8, a distance. (R Rowe). Total: £1.30. Dual Forecast: £2.00. CSP. 3.50: 1. THENE ARENA (A PMcCox) 5-4:

4.20: 1. LINDEN'S LOTTO () Kavaragh)
4-1: 2. Coefficien Hero 11-4; 3. Paper Ster
7-2: 7 ram. 9-4 few Stormful Pagrin. 8, 6. ()
Write), Youes £4.80; £2.70, £2.00. 0F-£6.00.
CSF: £14.97: Trosst: £37.99. Non Rumer:

CHELTENHAM 5.25; 1. VITAL SONG (Ar G Mathews) 11--2; 2. Ardbrenner 7-1; 3. Clobrecken Led 20-1. 10 cm. 6-5 fav Double Treller (40). 4. 6. (M Dare), Total: £5.40: £1.60, £2.00. £4.10. DF: £18.10. CSF: £31.27. Tros £52.30. NRs: A's Boy, Yquem. 8.00: 1 MISS MELBROOK (Mr E Williams)

6.00: 1. MISS MALLEROOK (Mr E Willerns)
11-10 fav; 2. Gless Oak 11-2; 3. Nill Island
15-8. 6 ras. 3, 2%. 10 Goldsworthy). Totac
£1.90; £1.30, £2.20. DF: £3.80. CSF:
£8.40. NR: Highway Five.
a.35:: 1. RUSTY BRIDGE (Mr R Burton) 41; Rw; 2. The Malalcarms 5-1; 3, Young
Brave 5-1. 10 ras. 4-1 jt fav Kettles. 1%.
13. (Mrs S Johnson). Totac £3.50; £1.90,
1 RD. E. O. DE: 56.00 CSE £72; \$8. Total

5.45: 1. AMERICAN HERO (B Storey) 4-6 fav; 2. Singing Send 11-8; 3. Bold Account 14-1. 6 ran. 14, 25. (R Allari), Total £1.80; £1.00, £1.90. DF: £1.10. CSF: 6.15: 1 CAPLISLE BANDITO'S (D Perk-

Knight double at Exeter Henrietta Knight retained her

crown as the Queen of Exeter when saddling a double at the course yesterday afternoon following victories for Colonel Blazer and Thunder Road. Only Martin Pipe has trained more winners at the Haldon Hill circuit in recent years. Colonel Blazer and Jason Ti-

tley appeared to have a simple task in the Royal Navy 'National Hunt' Novices' Hurdle and so it proved as stablemate Blowing Rock was the only rival to pose a threat. The five-year-old proved a

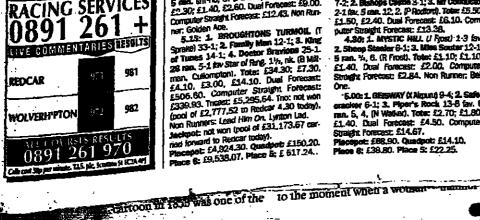
flop on his last outing at Ayr and Miss Knight explained: "He ran badly there but Jason said he lost a shoe and his action at the same time."

NATIONAME FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Bradipid City v Chariton (7.45)... EM VALDOHALL CONFERENCE Southport v Woling (7.45)...

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Cray Wandertra v Furness (6.0): Greenwich Bor-ough v Becksthern. BUERLER EXPRESS MEDIAND ALLIANCE: Bloxwith V Superhill.

JENSON EASTERN LEAGUE Presider Division
(7.45); Watton v Soham; Wisbech v Halsted.

elon: Cheisea v Milhvali (7.0) (at Kingstonian); Luton v Brighton (7.0); Wetterd v Swindon. Speedway PREMIER LEAGUE KNOCK-DUT CLP: Shotfold





ASCOT

2. Wilewander 8-1; 3. Election Day 6-1. 8 2. Withwarder 8-1; 3. Electron Lary of Life ran. 8-4 fan Double Trigger, 314, 314; U Dun-lop, Arundel). Totac £8.90; £1.80, £1.50, £1.70. Dual Forecast: £18.90. Computer Straight Forecast: £87.20.

3.40: 1 TREGARON (T Quant) 9-1; 2. 3.40: 1. Indepartors (1 Quan) 9-1; 2. World Premier 16-1; 3. Waypoint 25-1: 4. Arternacios 33-1, 25 ran. 13-2 far l'universe (Ridge, 24, 2. (R Aleshust, Essem). Totar 19.00; 22-50, 13,40, 15.30, 24.60. Dugi Foraccat. 258.00. Computer Stragger Forecast £117.85. Treast £3,240.40. Trice £1,498.20. 4.10: 1. BUERIDGE DANCER (PER EXCENT)

4.10: 1. BLUERIDGE DANCER (Per Extery)
5.4 fev; 2. Consectis 50-1; 3. Benefingham
Bladfe 12-1. 7 can. 2, rk. (B Meehen, Lembourn). Tokes £2.20; £1.40, £7.30. Dual Forecast: £37.20. Computer Straight Forecast:
£52.49. Thor £59.20. Non Runners Myana
B. The Rev John & The Boy John.

See and State Contary 10-1; 3. Cap July 3-1.

Sean. sht-hd, 3. U Dunlop, Annelli. Tytes.

15-30; £1.40, £2.60. Dual Forecast: £9.00.

Computer Straight Forecast: £12.43. Non Run
Tools Ade.

Computer Straight Forecast: £12.Kd, reinfratings: Golden Ace.

5.15: 1. BROUGHTONS TURNION. (F. Sprake) 33-1; 2. Family Man 12-1; 3. Ning of Tunes 14-1; 4. Doctor Bravisons 25-1.
28 ran. 5-1 fav Star of Reng. 1½, nk. (B Miller, Cultiompton). Totes £34.30; £7.30, £4.10. Dual Forecast: £5.06.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £506.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £339.93. Treast: £5,295.64. Tho: not won (pool of £2,777.52 to Rediar 4.30 today). Non Rummers: Lead Him On. Lyman Lad. Neelegot: not won (pool of £31,173.67 carnied forward to Resicar today). Places £ £9,538.07. Place 8; £ 517.24.

RACING RESULTS EXETER 2.20; 1. KILLING TIME () J Suchel) 11-8 fav; 2. Mitramare 6-1; 3. Call Heights 100-30, 5 ran. 7, 24. () Burchell). Tota: 52-20; £1-60, £2.80. Dual Forecast: £5.60.

10.30, £1.60, £2.80. Dual Forecast £5.60. Computer Straight Forecast £8.64.

2.52; 1. COLONEL BLAZER (I FTIEry) 2-5 tav, 2. Blowing Rock 7-1; 3. Fools Pature 12-1. 5 ran. 6, 7. (Miss H. Knight). Total £1.20; £1.20, £1.70. Dual Forecast £2.00. Computer Straight Forecast £3.53.

3.30; 1. THUNDER HOAD (I Cultor) 5-2; 2. Otter Prince 14-1; 3. Seachast 16-1. 7 ran. 11-10 faw Spring To It (unsealed tider). 4, 6. (Miss H. Knight). Total £2.70; £1.30, £6.70. Dual Forecast £4.3.30. Computer Straight Forecast £27.94.

4.00; 1. Heinlief Regalità S Burough) 7-2; 2. Bishops Capita 3-1; 3. Mr Conductor 2-1 fax. 5 ran. 12-2. (P Rocions). Total £5.00; £1.50, £2.40. Dual Forecast £6.10. Computer Straight Forecast £1.38.

ner Streight Forecast: £13.36. 4.30: 1. MYSTIC HILL U Fjost) 1-3 fav; 4. Sheep Steeler 6-1; 3. Miles Souter 12-1. 5 ran. 4, 6. (R Frost). Toles: 6.1.0; 6.1.10. £1.40. Duai Furecest: £2.00. Computer Straight Forecest: £2.84. Non Runner, Bell

One: E.00: 1. GERSWAY (X Abrun) 9-4; 2. Safe-rancier 6-1; 3. Piper's Rock 13-8 fav. 8 ran. 5, 4, (N Wester). Tota: £2.70; £1.80. £1.40. Dual Forecast: £4.50. Computer Straight Forecast: £14.67. Placepot: £88.90. Quadquit: £14.10, Place 6; £38.80. Place 5: £22.25.

2.10: 1. CIRCUS COLOURS (\$ Fox) 8-1:

2. Peter Mossany 10-11 fev; 3. Blear Bold 20-1. 7 ran. 1/1, 14. (J lenions). Tota: \$6.10: £2.70, £3.90. Dani Forecast: £4.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £14.81. £11.83.

3.50: I. IMENE ARENA (A P.McCo)) 5-4; 2. Persian Dawn 50-1; 3. Saksion 33-1. 5 ran. 4-7 fev Threescois (pulked up): 3, dist. (M Pipe), Toter: £2.10; £1.90, £24.00. DF: £20.90. CSF: £36.38.

4.50: 1 ALLTIME DANCER (JOShone) 5-4 iss; 2. Night in A Million 9-4; 3. Bigwheel Bill 7-1. 4 ran. 11/4, 8, 10 Sherwood). Tota: £1.80. DF: £2.00. Computer Straight Forecast: £4.18. Placepot: £28.10. Quadpot: £29.30. Place 6: £58.85. Place 5: £34.83.

£1.80, £2.40, DF; £5.40, GSP; £22.58, This: £7.00. KELS0

er evers tay, 2. Caught At Last 7-1; 3. Hand of Stage 11-2, 13 ran, 3½, 6. U Beny), Totas £2.00; £1.10, £1.70, £2.10, DF: £4.10. CSP. £6.64. Ync: £8.90. NR: Polar Wind. 55.64. Tru: £8.90. NR; Polar Wind. - 8.50: 1. NULWAY (8 Suorey) 8-1: 2. Wheat Fettle 5-1; 3. Westwell Boy 9-2 liv. 11. Ran. 2, 10, (M Barnes). Totas £10.00; £2.20, £1.70, £2.50. DF: £17.00, CSF: £32.01. Tricast £136.04. Tru: £28.10.

'We seek your help to smash a system under which, now in this year of 1955, human beings are being bought and sold like cattle'

Jones could be persuaded to look tracts back beyond his last childish prank and explore the history of industrial relations in English football he would come across Jimmy Guthrie.

Guthrie, who led Portsmouth to a famous 4-1 victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers in the 1939 FA Cup final, achieved greater prominence as a troublemaker, leading a struggle for the pay and conditions enjoyed today in English football even by players of Jones's limited

What I am coming to quickly is the consternation Jones has caused by threatening to challenge legally the transfer fee system that applies Britain - the professional footif players want to move between

As it is a system supported by the Professional Footballers' Association, who shared concern expressed generally over the controversial Bosman ruling that allows players to move freely to other countries. you have to wonder if there are people other than Jones involved in the issue. In other words, who put him

In fact, total freedom of contract was exactly what Guthrie sought 42 years ago when addressing the Trades Union Congress. "I stand here," he said, "as the representative of the last bonded men in ballers. We seck your help to smash

In the unlikely event that Vinnie English clubs at the end of their con- a system under which, now in this ear of 1955, human beings are being bought and sold like cattle. A system which, as in feudal times, binds a man to one master or, if he rebels, stops him getting another job. The conditions of the professional footballer's employment are akin to slavery ['Slaves in Chains' was the headline placed above reports of Guthrie's oration]."

Guthrie went on: "They smirch the name of British democracy. I have been accused by the football bosses and in the press of exaggeration in talking about 'slavery'. Let the bitter facts speak for themselves."

They were that a professional footballer's contract ended on 30 June each year when he was either



retained for a further 12 months, placed on the open-to-transfer list or given a free transfer. A retained player who did not agree terms received no money and could not move elsewhere. Similarly, a play-

er on the open-to-transfer list was no longer on the payroll and could not move until a fee was paid for his

Considering that it was six more years before things began to change we have come a long way in a relatively short time. In 1960, when on tour with the England Under-23 team, George Eastham told me that he was determined to get away from Newcastle United even it meant going on strike. There was no preat cause in Eastham's mind but the stubbornness that brought about his transfer to Arsenal inspired a well-organised campaign, led bril-liantly by Jimmy Hill, that put paid to the maximum wage and the re-

tain and transfer system.

settled players who were out of contract made sense. It still does, protecting most obviously the smaller clubs and, therefore, the unique

structure of English league football. - This week, in an interview he gave to the Sun, the PFA's chief executive, Gordon Taylor, expressed fears that would never have occurred to a man of Guthrie's militant nature. The system is not out of date because it works," Taylor said. "Of course we will refine it because of Bosman. But don't tear up everything and start again. There is security for players in this country. They cannot be sacked. Contracts have to be honoured ... We do not

Nevertheless allowing clubs to put want freedom across the board be-a price (subject to arbitration) on uncause my members realise it would affect the clubs they came from and

often go back to." When I was a member of Taylor's union and a delegate to its annual conference I felt the need for radical change as much as anyone. Later on newspapers provided me with an opportunity to campaign for improvements in the working condi-

tions of professional footballers. Jones should count himself lucky. There was a time, I think, when he would have been advised to seek alternative employment. Stick to lugging cement, raising chickens. Foolishly, he is now threatening the very system that made his overblown status possible.

Universities upset slipshod Sussex

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Fenner's British Universities 217-6 British Univ win by 19 runs

First it was Ireland, yesterday it was the turn of British Universities to upset the cosy status quo of county cricket by beating Sussex in the current round of Benson and Hedges matches. English cricket is not strong, but if the giant-killing trend con-tinues at this rate, England may even have a chance of trounc-

likely that Michael Atherton can rely on them playing quite as poorly as Sussex did at Fenner's.

This was the students' first win in this competition for seven years and they last beat Yorkshire at Headingley in 1990. But if the win was a deeply satisfying one, the gloss was surely removed by the tame way in which Sussex, having virtually got the match won at the half-way stage of their innings, lay down once the students were able to exert the tiniest bit of pressure. Neither side played brilliant cricket, but when steel was needed. it was Sussex who could not pass the mettle detector test.

Hampshire shaken by Fleming's 'golden' arm

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from Canterbury Hampshire 207; Kent 211-8 Kent win by two wickets

He is "The Man with the Golden Arm". Matthew Fleming's uncle, the author Ian who created James Bond, could not have plotted it better. The former army officer's second five-wicket haul in a week in the Benson and Hedges Cup earned him another Gold Award and helped set Kent, five quarter-finals in the last six years, on their well-worn path to the knock-out stages.

His excellent 5 for 27 - a vast improvement on Monday's effort - virtually ended Hampshire's chances of qualifying for the knock-out stages. He was run close for the award by another Matthew, the diminutive, talented batsman. Walker.

The two Matthews preached their one-day gospel via their bats when they opened the Kent innings. Two maiden overs were all Fleming could stand. Four scoring strokes later and he was gone for 13 runs. That left the stage to Walker and he did not waste a moment. He compiled his third one-day half-century in consecutive matches, and on

the way to a personal best in the

One man who did, however,

competition of 83, he passed 1,000 runs in what was his 50th one-day match for the county. Just as it would be unfair to describe Fleming as purely military medium (despite his background) so it would be a gross calumny to regard Walker as anything but a cultured strokemaker. He uses his head and -

equally importantly - his feet. He had paced his innings to perfection and some two and a half hours into it was contemplating a century when he was vorked by the worthy Simon Renshaw. He and Nigel Llong had rattled along for a dozen overs adding 72, but Llong soon followed him to the pavilion. He had, at least, completed his maiden B&H fifty.

They wobbled further when their captain, Steve Marsh, sliced a Kevan James delivery to gully but the Zimbabwean legspinner, Paul Strang, who had earlier proved difficult to wring runs from, saw them home.

And so to Matthew Book One. He teased the heart out of the Hampshire innings in four separate spells, enticing and tempting the batsmen to do the unwise and that ensured Hampshire fell short of setting a challenging target.

was Mark Chilton, an economics student at Durham and a member of the Lancashire playing staff. In fact all the students are on one county staff or another, so Sussex can at least console themselves that they were essentially beaten by a powerful county second team.

Having contributed a sensible 34 with the bat. Chilton then proceeded to take 5 for 26 with his occasional but mesmerising medium-pace, as Sussex fell apart, losing their last six wickets for 69 runs in 11 overs.

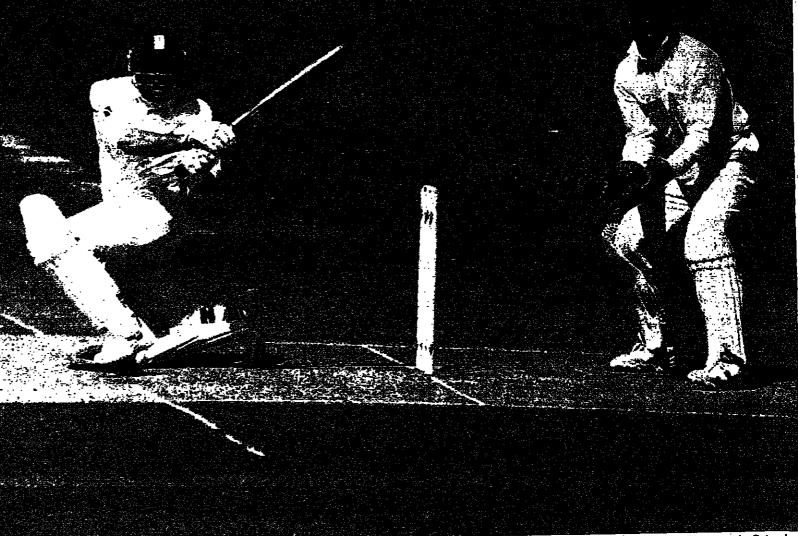
Almost as crucial was the strangulating spell bowled by Steffan Jones in the middle of the innings. Jones, a tall strapping pace bowler who is also set to play rugby for Bristol, bowled his 10 overs for just 22 runs, including the crucial wicket of Keith Greenfield. It was a spell that was instrumental in getting the students back into the game.

After the messy blood-letting over the winter, this result will not be music to the new hierarchy's ears, though it may deflect attention from the latest squabble at Hove, which involves the relocation of their famous library into a Portakabin, currently inhabited by the coaching staff.

Indeed the chairman. Robin Marlar, was present yesterday, but left when Sussex appeared to be coasting to victory. Anyone who knows Marlar, would not have wanted to be on the other end of last night's phone call. High on the agenda of expanations required will be why Vasbert Drakes, clearly sent in first to hit out, played straighter than Geoffrey Boycott.

Such convention was something that seemed to afflict the openers of both sides. Indeed few, including the Universities coach, Derek Randall, believed their 217 would be adequate. particularly after the openers, Ed Smith and Tim Hodgson, had been slow to play themselves in.

Fortunately their sloth was compensated by some dashing middle-order strokeplay as Chilton, Will House and Umer Rashid added 109 in 16 overs, to set a target that was more than adequate for Sussex's current frailty of mind.



Mark Ramprakash hits out during his Benson and Hedges Cup innings of 77 for Middlesex against Essex at Lord's

More misery for Middlesex

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from Lord's Middlesex 226-8 Essex 227-9 Essex win by one wicket

After comprehensively outplaying Middlesex for six hours, Essex almost lost their way in the final 60 minutes. When it came to the last over, Essex needed four to win with three wickets in hand - provided they did not lose more than one more wicket. If they did, they needed five because Middlesex had lost eight wickets.

Mark Hott pushed Keith Dutch's first ball to short extra cover. Robert Rollins ran from the non-striker's end and Ian Blanchett threw to Dutch, who ran out Rollins.

scampered desperate singles manding best. fell to a fine divoff the next three balls and, with ing catch behind by Keith any of the four main competitwo to go, one run was needed provided a wicket did not fall. But Cowan drove the next ball back to the bowler and, with Nott already starting for a run. Dutch ran him out by a distance.

Two runs were needed from the last ball, therefore, and Cowan drove to long-off where poor Blanchett, playing his first game for Middlesex, did not pick it up cleanly and the second run was completed. So. Middlesex have followed their aberration in Ireland with another defeat, and are now unlikely to qualify for the quarter-finals for the second

year in succession. Graham Gooch and Paul Prichard had given Essex a good start, adding 43 in nine

Ilott and Ashley Cowan overs. Gooch, not at his com-Brown, and Stuart Law then took command. The Australian made 53, but then the runs dried up as Paul Weekes bowled an excellent spell of off-breaks, conceding only 27 in his 10 overs. Paul Grayson was unable to get the ball away and Ronnie Irani was kept away from the strike. Wickets fell regularly until the last pair came togeth-

er - ultimately successfully. The only time Middlesex looked like scoring enough runs was when Mark Ramprakash and Weekes put on 69 for the third wicket. Ramprakash was easily recognisable as the batsman who had scored all those runs two years ago, which was the only piece of good news for

Big shock for Durham

ROUND-UP

tions last season, but yesterda after three half-centuries, David Boon produced his first century for them and the new captain's efforts were rewarded at last.

Simon Brown took the Gold Award though for his 6 for 36 as Durham beat Northamptonshire by 64 runs in the Benson and edges Cup at Chester-le-Street. Kim Barnett made an un-

beaten 112 at Old Trafford to leave Lancashire struggling to qualify for the quarter-finals. Jason Gallian's half-century rescued the holders from 29 for 4, but Derbyshire eased past their 223 with six wickets to spare.

At Bristol Robert Cunliffe's 113 and a total of 280 was not enough to prevent a three-wicket defeat for Gloucestershire by

Surrey. Alistair Brown (66 off 49 balls) Ben Hollioake (69) and Mark Butcher, batting at No 8 with a runner, set up victory with four balls to go.

Darren ME his second Gold Award in three days to steer Leicestershire to a Ti-run victory over Nottinghamshire at Grace Road. South African Neil Johnson chipped in with 2 for 38 on his debut.

 Somerset beat Glamorgan by 141 runs at Taunton. Mark Lathwell (77) and Richard Harden (68) helped them to 258 and Andy Caddick's three wickets sparked a Glamorgan collapse.

Darren Lehmann made nine on his Yorkshire debut and was one of Phil Newport's 4 for 37 that gave Worcestershire a 12-run win at Headingley. And Gladstone Small (5 for 23, four in five balls) won a first Gold Award as Warwickshire beat Minor Counties by 155 runs at Edgbaston.

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Benson and Hedges Cup (One-day matches) Middlesex v Essex LORD'S: Essex won by one wicket.

(Essex won toss) L Johnson c Rollins b Cowan ARC Fraser not out Extras (fb11, w6)......

Falt 1-5, 2-23, 3-107, 4-135, 5-154, 6-187, 7-194, 8-211 Bowling: Not 10-2-28-3; Cowan 10-1-35-2; Iran 10-63-0; Such 10-0-34-2; Grayson 10-0-55-1.

ESSEX
G A Gooch c Brown b Blanchett
P J Phchard b Fraser
S G Law low b Hewrit
R C Iran's c Ramprakash b Dutch
A P Grayson c Ramprakash b Johnson
D R Law c Brown b Johnson
D D J Robinson c Gatong b Dutch
IR J Rollins run out
A P Cowan not out
P M Such not out
P M Such not out
Extras (b3, 86, w19, nb6) as (63, 166, w19, m66) . Total (for 9, 50 overs)......227 Fell: 1-43, 2-105, 3-163, 4-194, 5-194, 6-205, 7-210, 8-222, 9-225.

Bowling: Fraser 10-2-30-1; Hewitt 10-0-53-1: Blanchett 6-0-44-1; Johnson 10-0-50-2; Weekes 10-1-27-0; Dutch 4-0-14-2 Lancashire v Derbyshire OLD TRAFFORD: Derbysh

LANCASHIRE

"M A Atherton c Adams b DeFreitas ...
A Firstoff c Kinkeen b DeFreitas ...
If K Hegg lbw b Harris ...
J E R Galkian b Roberts ...
I H Farorrotter (bw b Roberts ...
I D Austin lbw b Roberts ...
C Years b Desn ... Yates b De Martin not out (b1, ib3, w9, nb6) Total (44 overs) 223
Felt: 1-1, 2-4, 3-7, 4-29, 5-122, 6-138, 7180, 8-209, 9-217, 142 2, there 0.0.43 usu, 6-404, 9-217. Bowling: Defretas 10-1-43-2: Harris 9-0-42-2: Clarie 5-0-28-0; Bischwell 5-0-38-0; Dean 7-1-23-1; Roberts 8-0-45-3.

*D M Jones c Hegg b Green G A Khan c & b Gallien V P Clarke run out †K M Krilsken not out

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Warwickshire v Minor Co (Warwickshire won toss) WARWICKSHIRE

A J Moles b Reiding

N M K South live b Radford

D R Brown c Fielding b Dation

D L Hemp c Nicholson b Dalton ...

D P Oster c & b Dalton

T Bernard b Fell L Penney b Fell F Gles b Fell J P J Sylvester run out 1 Cockbain c Ostler b Small M A Fell not out S V Laudat b Small

Dalton c Moles b Small

Yorkshire v Worcestershire HEADINGLEY: Worcestershire won by 12 runs. (Yorkshire won loss) WORCESTERSHIRE
W P C Weston c Blakey b Hartley
1S J Rhodes low b Gough
G A Hick b Silverwood b Storm A Leatherdale b Gough
R Haynes thy b Silvenut
R Lampitt not out
J Newport b White
E Brindey not out
dras (lb14, w2, nb4) white 10-2-37-2; Shrenwood 10-mp 10-0-30-1; Vaughan 4-0-15-1. WSSHIRE. Was C Rhodes b Harman TO Byas o Rhodes o Haynes .. M D Moson libw b Newport
D S Lehmann b Newport
M P Yaughan b Brinkley
A McCrath c Moody b Brinkley
C White c & b Newport
T J Baskey & Moody b Newport
P J Harfley not cut 7-152.
Did not bat: C E W Siverwood, R D Stemp.
Bowling: Newport 10-1-37-4; Hoynes 10-3-25-1; Hick 5-0-22-0; Lamprit 9-0-40-0;
Brinkley 10-0-35-2; Leatherdale 6-0-27-0
Umptress: G I Burgess and G Sharp. British Universities v Sussex FENNER'S: British Universities won by 19 BRITISH UNIVERSITIES
T P Hodgson c Newell b Robins Singh a Moores b Jarvis ... House c Taylor b Newell ... A Rashid c Lenham b Drai Bowling: Jarvs 10-1-41-1; Draies 10-1-46-3; Khan 90-390; Roburson 10-0-24-1; Philips 4-0-20-0; Newell 7-0-35-1. SUSSEX

K Greenfield b Jones

Bowling: Donald 6-1-28-1: Brown 6-2-11-0; Small 7-4-23-5; Giles 10-3-26-2; Smith 3.4-0-15-0. rest V A Holder and J F Steele. Leicestershire v Notts LEICESTER: Leicestershire (Nottinghamshire won toss) LEICESTERSHIRE D L Maddy b Dowman ... I J Sutchfie c & b Evans J Whitaker retti trurt. Wells c Archer b Evans . N C Johnson b Evans ... A Habib run out †P A Nibson b Dowman ...

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

R T Robinson c Nixon b Milhis...
G F Archer b Mulially...
*P Johnson c Dalan b Johnson ...
P R Pollard run out...
N A Gue b Dalain ...
C M Tolley C Dalain b Wells ...
W M Noon low b Milhis ...
K P Evans c Nixon b Dalain ...
R 1 Bates not out.
R A Pok c Habib b Wells ...
Extras (b1, fb2, w11, rb4) ...
Total (47.4 overs) Bowling: Multally 8-1-40-1; Multas 10-3-45-2; Dakin 6-0-35-2; Johnson 8-0-38-2; Brimon 10-1-34-0; Wells 5.4-0-23-2 Umpires: H D Bird and B Dudleston. Durham v Northamptonshire CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham won by 64

(Northamptonshire won toss DURGHAM

J B Lewis c & b Capel

P B Collingwood b Mohammad Alra

M A Roseberry hit wicket b Taylor ...

O C Boon b Emburey

Bowling: Mohammad Alvam 9-1-36-1; Taylor 10-0-31-1; Penberthy 7-0-36-0; Curran 6-0-26-0; Emburey 8-0-34-3; Snape 5-0-24-0; Capel 5-0-34-1. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
D J Capel & Bolling b Brown
M B Loye Env b Brown
*R J Baley b Brown
K M Curran b Brown
K M Curran b Brown
C Watton c Brown b College
T C Watton c Brown b College
J N Snape c College
Od J N Snape c Total Ripley not out E Emburey c Brown b Boiling

Total (42.5 overs) 161.
Fail: 1-2, 2-3, 3-3, 4-53, 5-95, 6-138, 7-139, 8-141, 9-152.
Bowling: Brown 9.5-1-30-6: Bents 5-0-21-0: Nilleen 6-2-16-0: Walker 7-1-21-1: Bolling: 10-1-46-1; Collingwood 5-0-18-1
Dimpires: N T Plews and R A Write. Somerset v Glamorgan TAUNTON: Somerset win by 1A1 runs. Glamorgen won tass SOMERSET R J Harden c Dale b Partun] Tumer law & C K A Parsons low to Parkin rosc 1-0, 2-41, 3-48, 4-68, 5-201, 6-202, 7-224, 8-245, 9-252 Bowling: Warten 10-1-38-2; Parkin 10-0-42-3; Dale 10-1-61-2; Buccher 4-0-30-0; Croft 10-0-51-1; Cosker 6-0-38-1. GLAMORGAN

S P James c & b Caddick An P Maynes to torner b Caddick ...
G P Butcher c Harden b Burns ...
A D Shaw Ibw b Rose
R D B Croft c Turner b Burns ...
D A Cosker Ibw b Burns
D A Cosker Ibw b Burns 84, 5-54, 5-56 Bowling: Rose 9, 4-2-31-3; Caddick 9-0-43-3; Burns 6-0-18-3; Kerr 6-0-21-1 Umpires: J H Hampshre and R Palmer.

Kent v Hampshire Hemashire wan toss M L Heyden low b Strang J S Laney 5 McCague

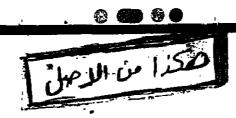
Fall: 1-48, 2-119, 3-130, 4-155, 5-198, 6-241, 7-278.
Bowling: Lewis 9-0-74-1; Smith 10-1-50-0; Young 9.2-0-54-2; Alleyne 10-1-39-2; Ball 9-1-48-1; Hancock 2-0-9-0
Umphres: D J Constant and P.Wiley. R A Smith low b Fleming .
*J P Stephenson b Fleming supprenson b Fleming Kendali c Liong b Fleming Whitaker b Fleming Aymes c & b Eatham . Total (49.5 overs) 207
Fall: 1-43, 2-80, 3-84, 4-124, 5-140, 6185, 7-185, 8-195, 9-206.
Bowling: McCague 8-1-35-2; Headley 1062-0; Strang 10-3-22-1; Llong 2-0-18TERMING 9-5-1-27-5; Eafham 10-0-39-1.
KENT M V Fleming c Laney b Renshaw ... M J Walker b Renshaw

pires: M J Kitchen and A G T Whitehead. Gloucestershire v Surrey BRISTOL: Surrey won by three wickets (Gloucestershire won toss)
GLOUCESTERSHIRE N J Tramor c Stewart b Bickneti VIA Lynch Ibw b Lewis ...

203, 1*200. Bowfing: Bicknell 10-0-41-1; Lewis 10-1-54-1; Benjamin 8-0-32-0; Salisbury 10-0-44-0; A J Holikoake 7-0-52-2; B C Holikoake 5-0-32-1. SURREY A D Brown b Ball †A J Srewart c Afeyne b Lewis B C Holipake st Russell b Akeyne G P Thorpe b Alleyne N Shahid b Young J Holloake run out Lewis not out M A Butcher c Sub b Young I D K Salisbury not out

Extras (b4, lb6, w6, nb2)

Group C Group D **Second Test** Final day: Sri Lanka won toss COLOMBO: Match drawn -SRI LANKA - First immings 331 (P A De Sive 138no, S T Jayestriya 72: Sedisin Mush-194 4-115). PAKISTAN - First immings 292 (Moin Kher 98no; K.S.C. De Sina 5-85). SRI LANKA - Second lunings 388 for 4 dec (S Jayasunya 133, A de Siba 103 not out) PAKISTAN - Second limitage Segisin Mushtag not out... Extras (fb3, nb1) Total (for 5, 95 overs) Fall: 3-146, 4-267, 5-279 Did not bat: †Moin Khan, Mishtaq Ahmed, Muhammad Zahid, Shahid Nazir. Sowing: Vass 16-7-40-2; K 5 C do Silva 19-2-73-0; Sava 28-10-71-2; Kaipoge 20-6-60-0; Azapattu 4-0-9-1; Am H Tillekaratne 2-1-3-0. Umpires: | Robinson (Zim) and P.Manuel (Sri Lanka).



Morgan knocked out by Hendry and the 'Prince'

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GLY HODGSON reports from the Crucible

Alex Higgins was not only a master of the snooker cue, he was more than adept at finding reasons for a defeat. "He was in my line of thought," he once raged about a referee who, he claimed, was deliberately standing in the wrong place for every

shot he attempted. Darren Morgan had a variation

on the theme after losing 13-10 to Stephen Hendry in his Embassy World Championship quarterfinal yesterday. It was not the referee diverting his gaze, nor even the streaker who interrupted Roonie O'Sullivan's concentration in February's Benson and Hedges Masters, but the far more menacing shape of the boxer, "Prince" Nascem Hamed, "It had a mas-

sive bearing on the result," he said. The world featherweight champion, a friend of Hendry. sat in the press seats which are

table and so unnerved Morgan that he insisted he was removed. "I've never met the man," he said "I've only seen him on telly and it was like 'wow'.

"It was putting me off and getting Stephen in the mood so I politely asked for him to be moved so I couldn't see him. He has got un intimidating face, you wonder if at any minute he's going to jump out and lay one on you." The last sentence was said hu-

had to tell Naseem to "hop it or there'll be trouble" failed to see the funny side. Morgan, too, was sufficiently upset to contemplate refusing to play unless he was moved.

All of which played into the hands of the six-times world champion, who is the last person to need any help. Both players agreed that the Nasceminfluenced session, which Hendry took 6-2, was the decimorously, although you can

was smoothly turned into victory. Morgan began in imposing form but every time the challenger got level the holder kicked. ahead again. The crucial point came at 11-10 when Morgan miscued a blue so horribly you feared for the baize. Hendry won the frame with a break of 62 and

then took the 23rd. "It was a very hard match," Hendry said. "People forget how good he is and write him off. He's very capable. If he'd beatsive one and yesterday a 9-7 lead en me he'd have won the tournament," Had he noticed Hamed? "He had a big silver coat on, you couldn't miss him." Which is not how you would

مكان الامل

describe Alain Robidoux. The French-Canadian 14th seed had never got beyond the second round at the Crucible before, but suddenly finds himself in the semi-finals having exploited the gap left by the elimination of Peter Ebdon, Alan McManus and Dave Harold.

That gap was caused in part by his opponent yesterday, Lee power base across the Atlantic be stronger this time."

Walker, and the thanks he got for it was a 13-8 defeat. Just 9-7 ahead overnight, Robidoux quashed any chances of another shock with four successive frames. His guaranteed prize-money, £63,000, will be more than double his previous best.

Robidoux becomes the first Canadian to get within range of the World Championship since Cliff Thorburn, Kirk Stevens, Bill Werbeniuk and Jim Wych threatened to take the sport's

Since then American pool has become the predominant cue

sport in Robidoux's country. "I hope this result is going to bring a lot of publicity because

snooker has declined," he said. Talking about his previous, unimpressive record in Sheffield. he added: "I get very nervous. I try too hard to do well and that's just the wrong thing to do. Normally I'm expected to win, this* time I'll be the underdog. I will

World Cup fight over 'nothing'

Football NICK DUXBURY

England and Germany were told yesterday by the second most senior figure in world

in a meaningless battle for the 2006 World Cup finals. Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of the game's international governing body, Fifa, speaking at the Soccerex exhibition at the Wembley Conference Centre, also reprimanded the governing body of European football, Uefa, over their efforts to reshape the rules of the

football that they are engaged

World Cup bidding process. In addition. Blatter indicated that fans who wanted to watch World Cup finals in their entirety after 1998 should start saving for a satellite dish. Uefa want only one bid per continent for the 2006 event, but Blatter said: "It is Fifa's World Cup, not

a matter for confederations. "Every national association that is part of Fifa has the right to bid, and Germany and England have the same rights to be a candidate. These rights are for all associations, not for a confederation to decide."

There have been whispering campaigns against England, after they decided to press on with a bid, despite an alleged "gentleman's agreement" that Germany should carry the European banner.

and Germany is for nothing," Blatter said. "At this stage we baven't even opened the official bidding for 2006 - that will come at the end of the World Cup next year, in the autumn."

On the question of TV, Blatter said: "The World Cup in 1998 is not a problem, it will be broadcast by the so-called Official Television. But things will change after that, although I can promise that in Europe at least the first game, one semi-final and the final itself will be available on free TV."

However, while the cameras do appear to be calling the tune increasingly, Blatter maintained that their influence would only be allowed to go so far.

What we could not accept from TV is the idea of time-outs or the game split into quarters or thirds, let alone the use of third referees in the stands," he said."If you lose human error from the game, you will also lose

main a game, not become a science. The game is based on human mistakes "

firmed that he is interested in signing the Auxerre midfielder Moussa Saib, but insisted that any deal for the £3m-rated Algerian international could be

"He is a good player, but he is just one of hundreds of players that we are looking at. Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "I don't think he will be here next season, but you never know. He won't make any decision until May or June so we have to be nationt."

Arsenal will face opposition for the 28-year-old Saib should Auxorre decide to collect a fee now for a player who will be out of contract next year. Parma, Real Sociedad and Valencia

The Monaco right-back Patrick Blondeau confirmed that he wanted to leave the club after virtually winning the French championship on Tuesday, but he is still uncertain which country he will be playing in next season.

wards Italy or England," the 29-year-old Blondeau said. Blackburn have offered £2m, but Sheffield Wednesday and Rangers are also in the chase.

different owners, different manfactory to be run like that, nevkid ourselves. It will take a mi-

the goalkeeper Gary Walsh out of Middlesbrough's final four matches of their Premiership relegation struggle and the FA Cup final. Boro's two other keepers, Mark Schwarzer and Ben Roberts, are also struggling

Arsène Wenger has con-

some way off.

I was impatient to win this

off-field problems for undermining Nottingham Forest's survival fight. "There has been ager and different assistant "and it would be difficult for a er mind a football club. We can't nor miracle to stay up now.

title because it's my first and because it will allow me to look to-

A knee operation has ruled

are also interested.

with injuries. Wolves' will be without their £1m midfielder Steve Corica and the winger Michael Gilkes for the First Division play-offs. Both will have surgery tomor-row on knee injuries and are not expected to return until Christ-

figher than a Rocket: Minnesota forward Kevin Gamett (left) outjumps Houston Rockets' Kevin Willis to control a rebound as Gamett's Timberwolves' team-mate Terry Porter looks on in the NBA first-round play-off game in Minnesota yesterday. It was all to no avail as the Rockets won 125-120 and took the series 3-0

Katy Parker, who, at 12 years, four months and 23 days, is the youngest girl to represent England in the World Championships, made a quick but honourable exit in the preliminary rounds of the mixed doubles at Manchester yesterday.

Parker and her 13-year-old partner, Michael Chan of Wevbridge, Surrey, were beaten 21-11, 21-14 by the Ghanian teenagers Eric Amoah, 17. and Hagar Amo, 18, in just under 14 minutes but were certainly not disgraced.

After the match Parker said: "I thought I played my best today. I wasn't nervous and I didn't feel under any pressure. It was a very good experience for me.
"We started a bit slowly but

we played a lot better in the second game when we won several points in a row. I really enjoyed it."

England at under-17 level. agreed. "It was a great experience and when we came back from 3-10 in the second game to 11-13 I thought we had a chance," he said.

Yesterday's match proved that both Parker and Chan have good forebands and good temperaments against far more experienced opponents. Amoah played regularly for Ghana in the men's team event and at six foot had a much longer reach than his diminutive rivals.

The Ghanian pair went away from 9-6 to 19-10 before the opening game and led 10-3 in the second. But back came the English youngsters to 11-13 before Amoah and Amo then

moved on to victory. China, attempting to repeat their feat of two years ago when they took all seven titles. won the men's team event when they heat France 3-1 in the final. On Tuesday the Chinese their title with a 3-0 victory over North Korea. In the men's third-place play-off, South Korea beat Germany 3-0.

Israel lodged a strongly worded protest yesterday over the refusal by Algeria, Qatar and Iran to play them in the men's team event at the World Championships.

In a letter to the organising committee, Ahron Goldenberg the manager of the Israeli team, urged that the three countries be banned from future events. "We demand immediate

elimination of the three from all forthcoming events... as well as measures and sanctions that it will not be repeated," Goldenberg said in the letter.

The Israeli men were awarded three walkovers in the round-robin event after their opponents had withdrawn and they finished 41st in the team

English pair gain credit Ryder aim for Olazabal

With five of the top six European Ryder Cup players featuring in the Italian Open, which begins in Brescia today, there could be a flurry of place-

swapping by Sunday night. But most interest will be centred on two men not in those Josty positions: Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal and Bernhard Langer of Germany.

Neither player has many more than a dozen tournaments left this year to qualify for the event. After playing two tournaments Olazabal still has to rest his rehabilitating feet after his 18-month injury layoff and Langer is committed else-

Both, however, are aware of the need to qualify automatically in a top-10 ranking by 31 August when the team is selected, but will not alter their playing schedules. "I have to be playing any more than two weeks at a time," said Olazabal, who is currently 15th in the Ry-He is playing his second sucessive event after last week's

Spanish Open 11th place, before his usual rest period, then is appearing for two tournaments in Britain - the Open and the PGA Championship - before another rest before his build-up to the US Open.

Langer's seventh place in the US Masters largely helped him to 13th position in the Cup table and he is seeking a victory soon - something he did not achieve on the European Tour last year for the first time in 17 years - so that his Ryder place will be almost a formality. where than the European Tour.

"I only have 10 or 11 events left before the team is chosen, so it leaves me far more limited than most players on attaining automatic selection." Langer said. "But I try to pick

then I know just one win will get me into the team. Nobody can expect a wild card by right so that has to be the aim - or a

who is suffering putting problems which, he claimed, spoiled his US Masters bid, is another who can benefit in the table by taking the top prize, the Welsh-man lying eighth in the points

fends his title at Brescia, while the home favourite Costantino Rocca (second in the Ryder Cup points table) from just down the road at Bergamo where Payne won last year, is strongly favoured to carry off victory. Miguel Martin (third in the table), Thomas Bjorn (fourth), Paul Broadburst (fifth) and Darren Clarke (sixth) all join the battle for cup points.

US on target for first title in 64 years

ice hockey

The United States scored three third-period goals to beat Italy 4-2 and keep their 100 per cent record at the World Championships in Turku, Finland, yes-

The victory left the Ameri-

cans, who are seeking their

first world title in 64 years, with a perfect record of three wins and lifted them to joint first place with Sweden in Pool B. Marty McInnis collected the winner midway through the final period when he snapped a point-blank wrist-shot past the Italian netminder, Mike Rosati.

Paul Ranheim later added an in-

surance goal into an empty net to close the scoring. Dan Plante had put the Americans 2-1 ahead just 18 seconds into the final period when his cross-ice pass deflected in off the skate of Robert Nardella. Dino Felicetti then replied for Italy to make it 2-2.

Italy had taken a 1-0 lead in the first period, Chris Bartolone blasting a slapshot past Chris Terreri. The US levelled the score in the second period when Rosan was unable to control the rebound off Ken Klee's shot from the point, leaving a loose puck for Chris Tancill to

Lewis' date fixed with

Lennox Lewis's World Boxing Council heavyweight championship defence against his fellow Briton Henry Akinwande has been confirmed for At-

dlers, Panos Eliades and the New Jersey-based Main Events, and Akinwande's promoter,

while the King-Akinwande package will be £1.25m. Atlantic City is a happy hunt-

ing ground for the 31-year-old Lewis, winning three of his fights in the New Jersey gambling resort. Lewis regained the title by defeating a mentally confused Oliver McCall in Las Vegas in February. The unbeaten London-born Akinwande, also 31, has relinquished his World Boxing Organisation crown for this chance as the official WBC's mandatory

Akinwande

lantic City on 12 July. After lengthy negotiations, agreement was finally been reached between Lewis's han-

Don King The fight will be shown in Britain at midnight on Sky TV and will run on from a promotion in this country featuring the British featherweight champion, Paul Ingle. Lewis will have a part share of a promotion which could not him in excess of £2m.

YESTERDAY **World Cup Group Four** Latvia (1) _____2 Belanus (0) Sheriyekov 38, 83 3,000 (at Daugava stadium, Riga) Group Five

Israel (1) _____2 Cypnus (0) = Ohana 3, 72 ___35,000 (at Ramat Gan stadium, Tel Aviv)

Group Nine en stadium, Yaravan) EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP Group One (Koege): Denmark 2 Slovens 1. Group Five (Tel Aviv): Israel 4 Cyprus 3. AVON INSURANCE COMPRINATION First Division: Bournemouth O Brighton 2; Swerness

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS Rejec 66) Venezueta O.

HRDPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP Group Day

(Charloon): England O Georga O. Group Three
(Segnadal): Norway 3 Finland O; (Windshiften):

Switzelfand A Hungary 1. Group Four (Treilbattan): Sweden 2 Sectiond 1; (Amstetten):

Austria 7 Estona 1; (Vanishara): Lowa O Belants 3, Georg Five (Moscowi): Russa 6 Luenthourg O. Group Six (Nord Sad): Yutteldraid

1 Spain 2. Group Six (Nord Sad): Yutteldraid

1 Spain 2. Group Six (Nord Sad): Yutteldraid

1 Spain 7; (Sam Marino): San Marino O

Netherlands 7; Goup Girt (Butterstall: Romania

1 Republic of Incline O. Group Nine (Mospown):

Carmany 2 (Vixaine O.

EUROPEAN UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP Intermediary round: England 2 Porugal 1 (or Gigt NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE See

SPORTING DIGEST FOOTBALL RESULTS

11 Hustonia o Demontos 1 Worre 1; Weinig 2
Stalyholiga D.

KISS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury 3
Sutton Und 3; Boreham Wood O Pudiest 2;
Bromley 1 Yeou? 2 (Mouli with the): Oxford Cay
1 Erriald 4. Finet Division: Wolsingtom 2
Egiran D: Bersond Division: Bersonad 2
Egiran D: Bersond O'Relace: Bersonad 2
Egiran D: Bersond O'Relace: Bersonad 1:
Horsham 5 Dorlong O; Metropotitan Police 10
Hernet Hempstased 4. Taind Division: Aveley 4
Epsom 6: Evel 1; East Thurtock 3: Clepton 0:
Homothurch 0 Southal 1.
UNBOHD LEAGUE Premier Division: Byth
Spartans 6: Endeley 3; Lanciates 1: Buston 0:
Spannymoor 1: Bishop Auckland 5: Witton
Abbon 1: College Bay 0: First Division: Fensior
Celto: 3 Greet Fennoda 2; Grettra 2 Bractord
Park Avenue 2: Hemogase Town 1: Neitherfield
1; Lingh 2: Raddiffe Somugh 2: Worksop 1
Droyledan 1: Challinging Cup final: Boston Und
0 Garnsborough Trinity 1 (other extre time; at
Sincil Bank, Uncoln).

DR MARTIENS LEEGUE Premier Division:

Sincil Bank, Lincain).

DR MARTIENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Goucaster 3 Donchester 1; Hastings 1 Creakey 0, Maditand Division: Dudley 1 Badworth 1. League Cap firmi second leg: Sudbury Town 0 Burton Abbon 1 1889; 1-3).

URAUET SUSSES COMMY LEAGUE First Division: Hassocies 1 Wick 1; Peacethieven 0 Datenood 1; Portfeid 0 Selsey 2; Ringmer 1 Pagliam 0; Shorefern 1 Burgess Hill 4.

WRISTONLEAD NEWT LEAGUE First Division: Cristiann 0 Lordawood 2; Cray Wendereus 0 Cristiam O Lordavord 2: Cray Wenderless O Beckenham 2: Greenwich Borough O Trusbridge Wells 1; Henne Bay 3 Controller O: Whitssalos 2 Sheppey 1. MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pretitier Division: Amthorps 4 Sheffled C: Premier Division: Armshorpe 4 Sheffield C; Hucknall 2 Arnoln C; Pickering 2 Liversedge C; Ponteinet 1 Ossett Albion 3.

Posterinet 1 Ossett Albion 3.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Dississer. Kidagiose 0 Bootle 3; Newtastie Town 1 Nantwich 3.

JENSON ENSTERN LEAGUE Premier Distance Clection 0 Stowneriset 1; Das 1 Great Yarmouth 0; Gorleston 0 Lowestor 1; Tuttee 2 Worthern 0; Written 1 Fellisstove 0.

INTERLIBUK EXPRESS MIDICAND ALLANGE: Hincidey Athlatic 2 Barwell 1; Krypersley 1 Pelosis Will 4; Rocester 1 Boltimane S. Michaels 2; Stapenhill 1 Oldbury 2; Willenhall 2 Sandwell 1.

LEAGUE 0F WALES: Connairs Quey Nomads LEACHE OF WALES: Connan's Quey Nomed 1 Caersus 1; Fint O Barry R; Llensentifield Bengar Cay 1; Rhyl O Carnets Bay 1. Bengr Cay 1; Riyl O Carrees Bay 1.
SMRINOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division
play-off first lag; Bangor O Ards 1.
PORITINS LEAGUE Fremier Division: Oldham
2 Bimmylum 2; Sheffield Wednesdey O Darby
3. Plast Division: Sheffield Uednesdey O Darby
3. Plast Division: Sheffield Uednesdey O Darby
3. Rose Division: Sheffield Uednesdey O Darby
3. Stockooff 1; Rotherson 3 Barnsley 4. Third
Division: Cheater 2 Chestorfield O.
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Division: Wation 2 Carrell City 0; West Harm
3 Oxiged Uto 2; Wentbledon 2 Charlson O.

Basebati AMERICAN LEASUR: Anaheim 5 Boston 4; Covetand 10 Caldand 4; Wilhaulee 2 Detroit 1: Seatule 7 New York Yankees 5; Chicago White Soc 2 Teess 1; Keress Crty 6 Toronto 5 (10 In-ngs); Bahimore 6 Minnesora 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houtston 3 Colorado 1 Chicago Cube 14 Montreel & Florida 2 Sen Dag 1: Philadelphia 8 Philadelphia 2 New York Mei 3 Cincrinett 1: Los Angeles 6 Atlanta 2; St Loui 9 Sen Francisco 7.

L Pot 7 .682 13 .500 12 .500 12 .456 16 .385 10 .548 12 .500 11 .500 14 .440 16 .333 NATIONAL LEAGUE EASTERN DIVISION

18 6 .750 15 9 .625 11 12 .478 11 14 .440 8 15 .348 CENTRAL DIVISION 15 10 .800 -12 12 .500 2¹2 10 14 .417 4¹2 7 17 .292 7¹4 6 18 .250 8¹2 WESTERN DIVISION San Francisco

Basketball MBA Play-offic Sector Conference: Orlendo 88 Mismi 75 (Mismi leats best-of-fice series tier 2-1); Detroit 99 Atlanta 91 (Detroit lead se-ries 2-1); Western Conference: Process 110 Sectile 103 (Phoenix lead series 2-1); Hous-

Boxing Riddick Bowe announced his retirement from boxing yesterday, ending his ca-reer as a twice world heavyweight cham-pion. He will now work for the media outlet in a community service program. Bowe took beatings in his last two fights

by Andrew Golota but won both on dis-quelifications, with the first bout end-ing in a chair-throwing riot at New York City's Madison Square Garden, He fin-ished with a

Salim Malik, the former Pakistan cap-tein, hit his 15th Test century to ensure a draw yesterday in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo, leaving the two-Test series tied 0-0. Malik hit 155 to enable Pakistan to end the fi-net day on 285 for 5 in their second unings after being set a daumting tar-get of 426 runs for victory in 121 overs.

The Czech government yesterday an-nounced it would support a joint Czech-Austrian bid to host the European Championship finals in 2004. The government would be willing to give guarantees on the organisation of the bid, and, if successful, help with the construction of the necessary infrastructure.

MORED CHAIRPONSHIPS (Turing) Pool A: Russia 5 France 4, Pool A: United States 4 Italy 2. (Heisland, Tue) Pool B: Swedon 4 Norway 1.

Pools dividends

ice hockey

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 19th f1,000,240, 18 6118.20, 17 68.35, 16 f1.15. Half-time (Max 20pts) £170,30. Four dates £508.70, 10 houses £3.35, five aways VERMINE: Trubble chance: 1995; £206,052.00, 18 £56.10, 17 £8.20. Super Shots £134.00. Premier 10 £134.00. Territists: Treble change: 18pts 28,984.90.
18 £7.05. 17 £0.45. Eight aways £50.50.
24pts £0.80. 23 two dividends only. Four dramp
£00.50. Sight homes £1.00. Four dramp
£3.00. Super 7 £116.90. SPRITTENS: Treinia Chance: 19pts £1,494.75. 18 £2.70, 17 30p. Four draws: £135, Five sways £1.30, Bight homes 30.

Rugby Union
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Courage Cloba'
Championship Notional Langue Four-South Che-tentran 6 Henley 6. Welsh National Lengue First
Divisions Sugness 52 Camphilly 38.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Sheffield) Quar-ter-finalis: A Robidoux (Can) bi I. Walker (Wall

Table tennis

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Manchester) Selected: Merr Team event facet: Crims it France 3-1. (5/6): Japan its Greece 3-1. (7/6): Sweden its Belgium 3-1. Final placear: 29 Finance 30 Indonese; 3:1. (Japan placear: 29 Finance 30 Indonese; 3:1. (Japan placear: 29 Finance 30 Manchese; 3:1. (Japan placear: 29 Finance 33 Japan placear: 29 Finance; 3:2 Merry July 10:10 Japan placear: 3:2 Japan placear: 3:3 Japan placear:

England.

Women: Singles (Best of the games) Prelimitury round Once G Schwertz (Eng) bt C Gromer (List) 21-5 22-20 23-21: S Hurry (Scot) bt
1 Dez (Meo) 21-11 21-14 21-13: B Daunton
(Web) bt F Ramos (Ven) 22-20 21-10 17-21 2422: S Morei (Chi bt S Ruccos (Eng) 21-7 2119 16-21 21-14, Final teson standings: 1 Climit
2 North Rome; 3 Germany; 4 South Korea: 5
Hong Rong: 6 Japon: 7 Romans: 8 Sweden: 9
Russe; 10 Belone; 11 Hungley; 12 Crosha; 19
England.

Mixed Ogsbies: Prailment romad Tunc F

Mitted doubles: Preferency round Two: E Amosh and H Amo (Ghe) by M Chen and K Park-er (Eng) 21-13 21-14.

TRAND T CHALLENSE TOURNATHISM (Atlantia, Georgia) Man's singles, first round: F Medger (6t) by M Chang (18) 24 6-3 4-4; Benham I Sue) by S Sergian (Arm) 3-6-4; Benham I Sue) by S Sergian (Arm) 3-6-4; Benham I Sue) by S Sergian (Arm) 3-6-4; Benham I Sue) by S Sergian (Arm) 3-6-6-4; C C Rep) by A Hemandez (Med) 7-5-6-2; A Offson (195) by S Sergian (Arm) 2-6-3-6-2; A Offson (195) by K Carlson (Den) 6-2-6-2; G Schaler (Aut) by S Hambers (US) 6-0-6-3; MNorman (Sue) by Fredhisson (Swe) 6-3-6-2; G Schaler (Aut) by S Hambers (US) 6-0-6-3; MNorman (Sue) by F Predhisson (Swe) 6-3-6-2; J Van Hen, (Bel) by G Station (Swe) 6-3-6-2; J Van Hen, (Bel) by G Station (Swe) 6-3-6-3; J Fibrus (Med) in K Goossens (Bel 6-1-6-2; S Station (Med) by Hamburg (Fr) 6-3-6-2.
WYA REDOMA CUP (Hamburg, Sar) Singles flust round: M Serna (Sp) by C Cristia (Prom) 4-6-6-3; P Longonir (Rom) by A Gers (Cz Rep) 6-4-6-3; M Sanchez-Lottenzo (Sp) by S Testad (Pr) 6-3-6-1; B Schett (Lan) by A Otson (Pol) 6-2-6-0; P Langtona (Cz Rep) by R Romer (Ger) (Ser Carlson) (Fr) 6-3-6-1; B Static (Lan) by A Otson (Pol) 6-2-6-0; P Langtona (Cz Rep) by A Sanchez-Vecano (Sp) 7-5-6-3.

APP TOURNSWMENT (Musick, Ger) Singles, Enter round: M Rosset (Swe) by D Prinosi (Ger) 2-6-6-3-6-2.

APP TOURNSWMENT (Musick, Ger) Singles, Enter round: M Rosset (Swe) by D Prinosi (Ger) 2-6-6-3-6-2.

APP TOURNSWMENT (Musick, Ger) Singles, Enter round: M Rosset (Swe) by D Prinosi (Ger) 2-6-6-3-6-2.

APP TOURNSWMENT (Musick, Ger) Singles, Enter round: M Rosset (Swe) by D Prinosi (Ger) 2-6-6-3-6-2.

APP TOURNSWMENT (Musick, Ger) Singles, Enter round: M Rosset (Swe) by D Prinosi (Ger) 2-6-6-3-6-2.

good few top-fives." They are not the only ones who are aiming for the first prize of 78,330 points. Ian Woosnam,

Jim Payne, of England, de-

6-4 6-4: R Furtan (tt) bt O Ogorodow (Usb) 2-6 6-4 6-1. 6-4 6-1.
PAREAS CZECH MENTS OPEN CLAY COURT
TOURNAMENT (Prague) Singles, excend round:
B Uthrach (Cr. Rep) for 6 Bisnoc (Sp.) 6-4, 6-0;
A Portas (Sp.) for 1 Caronnel, (Sp.) 1-6 6-3 6-2;
C Pointe (Fr) ft.) (Krojsk); (Spcsk) 6-3 6-1;
R Fromberg (Aus) in M Gorro; (Sp) 6-2 6-4.

Domnos (US) bi A Gomez (Eox) 4-6 6-3 12-10. Doubles final: J Kriek and G Mayor (US) bt A Gomez (Eox) and M Purcel (US) 8-3-4-4-6-b) Sin Gomez (Ecu) and M Purcell (US) 8-3.

17A NEW'S SPHWO SATELITE (Matched) Singles, Sin

6-1.

LTA WOMEN'S SATELLITE (Harbield) Singles, second round: Llatimer (GB) by K Elliott (GB) 6-2 6-0; KMsisolca (Hart & N Woodhquss (GB) 6-3 6-1; C Taylor (GB) by K Pohkmann (Gen 6-3 6-7 6-2; L Ani (GB) by L Jelfs (GB) 6-1 1-8 6-0; I seek (SA) by F Sakots (Gen) 1-6 7-5 6-2; S Sakdan (GB) by M Chemowste (Indon) 8-0 6-3; I Ward (GB) by M Chemowste (Indon) 8-3 6-1; K Cross (GB) by J Camen (GB) 7-6 6-1.

TODAY'S

NUMBER 11,616,647

The number of spectators who have watched Nationwide League games this season. beating last season's total of 11,376,309 with 38 games still to go. Second Division gates are up most - 16.4 per cent.

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Employed Print

Sticky wickets

A day of upsets in the Benson and Hedges Cup, page 30

sport

Ascot racing Orchestra Stall in tune for top races, page 29



Unlicenced agents face blacklist

Football

CATHERINE RILEY

The world's leading agents are to publish a blacklist of those dealing in transfers without the

Licensed agents have to pay Fifa an annual £100,000 bond to work in the transfer market, but while over 70 have now paid that money and joined the International Association of Football Agents, others - including Norwegian Rune Hauge, who was named in the George Graham "bung" investigation - are continuing to work despite the fact that they are breaching Fifa

The IAFA are to name the offenders in an attempt to force Fifa to take action against all those using unlicensed agents. and manager will begin to "We want to bring pressure on

Fifa to punish the clubs and players, said Jon Smith, one of Britain's leading agents, at the Soccerex exhibition at Wembley yesterday.

"In our newsletter we will

publish a blacklist of the names of those people who are conspite not being licencees and hopefully this will mean managers will have second thoughts about using them," he said.

Celtic were recently fined £40,000 following their £3.5m signing of defender Alan Stubbs from Bolton via an unlicensed agent, although Smith pointed out: "That probably just covered the club's hot-dog sale the following weekend. There are regulations and Fifu has the teeth. What it has to do now is begin to bite and once it has bitten once players think twice.

Fabio Capello, who is resigning as coach of Real Madrid at the end of the season, said vesterday that he had decided to leave because he was irritated by the behaviour of the Spanish club's board.

The highly successful for-Gazzetta dello Sport that he had not signed a contract with anyone else, but had made a verbal commitment to one club.

He did not say who the agreement was with, but it is widely believed that he is to return to Milan, the club he led to four league titles and the European Cup. Arrigo Sacchi, who stepped down as manager of the national team to coach Milan. with whom he too had been successful, has had a difficult relationship with the club and some of the players this season.

Capello accused Lorenzo Sanz, the president of Real Madrid, of leaking informa- ers are professionals and we are tion to the Spanish press. "Every conversation we had. even between just the two of us, I found in the papers the next day. And the same thing happened with other bosses, not io mention the publication of conhave these indiscretions, it means that the club does not want you, that the president

hopes you will leave." Capello appealed to the supporters, who hurled insults and abuse at him on Tuesday following his announcement, not to judge him harshly. He said he had twice before been close to quitting this season and had stayed only because of the fans'

support. He denied there had been any bad feeling with the players following his decision, which had been rumoured for several months. "Real Madrid playstaying together until the end," he said. "Capello's problem is his own - not the team's." Real currently lead the Spanish league by eight points from Barcelona, with just seven games remaining.

about Capello's next stop. Real have already made attempts to woo Jupp Heynckes as his replacement next season. Hevnekes, who recently announced he would not be continuing as coach of the Spanish side Tenerife next year, has been approached by the club, and with no other apparent candidates, is almost certain to get the job.

Hevnckes, 51, has previously coached Athletic Bilbao in Spain and Eintracht Frankfurt, Bayern Munich and Borussia Mönchengladbach in his native

The Excel-Economico Bank wants Ronaldo back in Brazil and is prepared to spend \$82m (£50m) to secure his return, a bank official said. The bank which sponsors Corinthians has talked with Ronaldo's management to discuss the deal nich would bring the Fifa 1996 player of the year to the

São Paulo team under a 10-year contract The Swiss international Stéphane Chapuisat is to seek French citizenship to make it easier to move among European Union countries, but will continue to play for Switzerland,

the player - who is married to a Frenchwoman - said yesterday. "As soon as I have a day off, I will go to the embassy in Düsseldorf and apply for French citizenship. In June 1998 my contract with Borussia Dortmund runs out. As a Frenchtional team will never be an is-Ken Jones, page 30

More football, page 31

This opens up new opportuni-ties for me," he said.

make it easier for Chapuisat to

transfer to France next year, but

he said he would maintain his

Swiss citizenship as well and

continue to play for the national

team. "I consider myself Swiss and that will not change even

when I am a dual national," he

said. "Playing for the French na-

French citizenship would

Fettis earns **his side**

Northern Ireland's hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals in France virtually ended after they were held to a scoreless draw by Armenia yesterday. For the Armenians, it was a case of also cancelling any travel plans they might have made for next summer's tournament.

The result leaves Northern Ireland fourth in the group with seven points from seven games while Armenia, still seeking their first World Cup qualifying win, are fifth with four points from five games.

Northern Ireland had the better of the match, but were denied by the home goalkeeper. Roman Berezovsky. He produced a series of great stops the best two denying Steve Lo-mas and Iain Dowie. However, Berezovsky's opposite number, Alan Fettis, also had to make some fine saves.

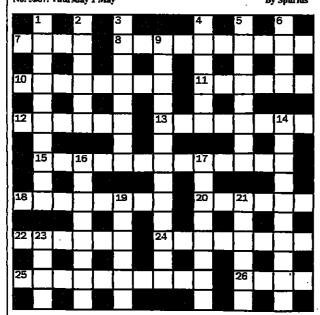
Fettis made a magnificent stop in the second minute to prevent Hamlet Mkhitaryan from scoring. The Nottingham Forest keeper dived full length to push the Armenian winger's

shot for a corner. Kevin Horlock put the ball in the Armenian net after 11 minutes following good work by the debutant, Iain Jenkins of Chester, but the header from the Manchester City midfielder was ruled out for foul play. Then Mkhitaryan had a "goal" for the home team after 28 minutes ruled out for offside. In the second half Northern Ireland launched several attacks on the Armenian goal but found no way through the home defence. Hamilton said: "I am bitter-

ly disappointed – but we will not throw in the towel, we will battle on to the end. I thought Horlock's goal should have been allowed."

West Ham's Steve Lomas and Iain Dowie were booked and are ruled out of Northern Ireland's next game against Germany in Belfast in August. The Leicester midfielder Neil Lennon was also booked.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS Old invader responsible for sacking (4)
Substantive date fixed for 22

Mull (10) 10 Scientist finding way to get into German articles 11 Big blow when doctor gets involved in speculative en- 26

development of mine in

12 Statute incorporated within a month for continental 1 country (6) 13 Programme offering stir- 2

ring tales, etc (8) Keeps going up and down? (6,7) Former hotel worker, one involved in overseas trade 4

Steering mechanism flashy 5 dude's installed in posh

(8) Old stone artefacts mislaid in hotels (8) Reported to be still in the Destination of girl filching

Container that's full of air? (7,3) Village is having to provide housing for foreign entertainer (6) Absent-minded American involved in case (8)

Ulster (8) Shopkeeper stocking more than one such item? Daft hairstyle sported by

DOWN brow of youngster, ten (8)

Dance for Francophones gatecrashed by English in old Indian province (6)

Hostile claim, one unfortunately made about Extract advantage (4)

extreme element? (7,6)

Female solidarity represented by nun with cowl 16 Impractical idealists pitching tent in remote Hebridean islands (8) Gemstone garishly adorns

> herds engaging at home Chooses a piece of music that's on the way up (4)

may see German shep-

Fish hanging up to dry (6) Activities in which you

Yeboah ready to leave after rift with Graham

Tony Yeboah, the Leeds strik- reer at the moment because I er, yesterday spoke of his misery at being left out in the cold by the club he once enthralled with a string of stunning goals. almost certainly on his way out of Elland Road because of what appears to be an unsolvable rift between himself and the club's manager, George Graham.

"I think he doesn't like me and when somebody doesn't like you, then you can do nothing," said Yeboah, "I don't have any problem with the officials, I don't have any problem with the players, I don't have a problem with the fans the only problem that I have is with the manager. "I do not want to finish my ca-

want to prove to the world that I'm not finished I'm still a very good player. When the club want to talk to me, I will talk, but The Ghanaian international is if they do not, then I am going."

Yeboah cuts a sad figure on the edge of a club where he once held centre stage. "At the moment I feel very bad. My fami-ly has left and I am alone, and I do not know what I am doing, so at the moment I feel very, very sad. I'm not playing games and it looks like I'm a bad boy, but I'm not that type of person."

Yeboah was in the shop window last night when Leeds reserves visited Tranmere. Stephen McPhail, the mid-

United's jetsetters

Manchester United hired a private jet last night to bring Roy Keane and Denis Irwin back afgame in Romania in order to avoid delays in their preparations for the Premiership run-in.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, wanted his World Cup players back as quickly as possible to get them ready for Saturday morning's game against Leicester, Ronny Johnsen and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer were playing for Norway, at home to Finland, and Peter side of the English fans.

Schmeichel was in Denmark

playing against Slovenia. United supporters plan to ter the Republic of Ireland's sue the Portuguese police following last month's violent scenes in Porto. United fans were exonerated by a Uefa inquiry into incidents before and after the European Cup quarter-final second leg, and many who claimed they were attacked by police are planning legal action. Porto were fined £45,000 for "serious lack of organisation" as Uefa came down firmly on the

fielder sent off in the first leg of Leeds FA Youth Cup final against Crystal Palace last week, will be available for the second leg at Selhurst Park on 15 May, because the first-team fixture against Middlesbrough on 11 May counts for his suspension

Paul Hart, the club's director of youth coaching, said: "I am delighted for Steve, because he has played an important part in our successes this sea-son in the FA Youth Cup and the Northern Intermediate

Oldham are freeing their striker Nicky Banger just two seasons after buying him for £300,000. Banger is the biggest name among the six players being released by the relegated First Division side. The veteran goalkeeper Jon Hallworth is also going, along with John Gannon. John Morrow. Ian Ormondroyd and Ian Snodin have been offered reduced terms.

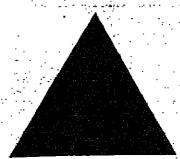
Paul Power is ready to make a sentimental return to Manchester City on the coaching staff. The former City skipper has been lined up to join the youth development side at Maine Road in a back room shake-up. City's manager, Frank Clark, is changing his staff with Kevin Bond being sacked as reserve team manager despite his side winning promotion this

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Men at work



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